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Labor bracing for 'save the party' rally

SARAH HONIG

LABOR is bracing itself for a controversial "save the party" rally this afternoon, followed by what is expected to be a stormy session of its political bureau, all against the background of increasing internal strife.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal, for example, came out in favor of a cabinet reshuffle yesterday.

Rumors that a reshuffle is in the offing were among the catalysts for the latest unrest in Labor, with Shimon Sheves, director-general of the Prime Minister's Office, coming under fire from MK Haggai Merom for plotting to purge several ministers.

"If some ministers' performance is not up to par, it is best that they be replaced by other, more capable and more talented candidates," Shahal said.

He incurred the wrath of other ministers, who branded him a traitor and an opportunist.

Labor secretary-general Nissim Zivili was among those who took Shahal to task, assuming that "what he actually has in mind is to replace one of the ministers who would presumably lose his portfolio."

Welfare and Labor Minister Ora Namir was more blunt. She openly accused Shahal of seeking to take over the Treasury, should Finance Minister Avraham Shohat be one of those in jeopardy, as press reports suggest.

One of the most prevalent theories in Labor is that Shahal is afraid of the expected entry of Yit'ud into the government will cost him his Energy portfolio, the only one available for Gonen Segev.

Shahal is either preparing to go to battle for his second portfolio or to demand a better one in its stead, it is said.

This prompted Shohat to speculate that "perhaps Shahal simply wants to exchange his police and energy title for the energy and police title."

Zivili concluded that "in view of the free-for-all in Labor these days, it is high time that the party engage in some soul-searching to save itself from itself."

Declaring that they are out to do precisely that, Merom's best friends in the party, headed by MK Avraham Burg, called a rally this afternoon to "push for peace in the party and rescue it, because it is a footstep away from the abyss," as Burg put it.

The fear in Labor is that those aligned with Burg will sling mud. A senior source close to Rabin expressed anxiety that "the party won't be the same after they get through with it at the rally."

They will no doubt provide excellent material for the Likud in the next election campaign.

Burg, Merom, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, and MKs Yael Dayan, and Nawaf Masalha are sponsoring the rally.

They are seen as pressing for a portfolio for Beilin, and it is feared in Labor that if their relations with Rabin deteriorate they will leave Labor and team up with Ramon.

It is hoped that things will temporarily calm down in Labor after Rabin leaves tomorrow for Norway, Japan, and Korea, as he is expected to be away for two weeks, during which no substantive changes in the coalition or government can occur.

US urging elections before pullback

Peres may raise idea in meeting with Arafat this morning

DAVID MAKOVSKY
 and JON IMMANUEL

THERE are growing indications that the US favors moving ahead with Palestinian elections, while delaying IDF redeployment away from Arab population centers in the territories, at least until Israeli security concerns are met.

"There are two needs. From the Palestinian standpoint, there is a need for elections. This creates legitimacy, and builds credibility. From the Israeli perspective, there is a need for security. We believe you can reconcile both," a senior Clinton administration official told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

When asked outright if the US favors such a compromise, the official refused to elaborate.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres meets with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat at the Erez checkpoint this morning. There is speculation that Peres could suggest such a compromise. The two, along with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, are to next see each other at Saturday's Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher's statements over the last two days suggest this may be a US-brokered compromise.

Upon arrival on Tuesday night, Christopher threw his weight behind Israel's view that Arafat must halt terror attacks by Hamas and other Islamic militants before IDF redeployment could move ahead.

However, in Gaza yesterday, he also embraced Arafat's call for elections. "We recognize the importance of holding elections at an early date," he told reporters.

A senior Israeli official said that splitting the elections from redeployment, at least for the time being, "makes sense."

Until now, the Palestinians have said separating the two would violate the Oslo accord. However, Israel has charged that Arafat's incapability or unwillingness to halt terror attacks against



US Secretary of State Warren Christopher shakes hands with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday at their meeting in Gaza. (AP)

Israelis also runs counter to the accord.

Christopher also told Arafat he must work towards providing "effective and accountable" government.

Christopher met with Arafat for an hour. Afterward, he told a joint press conference: "I encouraged the chairman and his colleagues to create a rule of law and other institutions that will give the Palestinians effective government and accountable government."

Arafat has come under sharp attack in a spate of recent US

press reports, which depicted him as an arbitrary despot. They culminated in a 13-page *New York Times Magazine* article late last month, which argued that Gaza is sinking because Arafat has no idea how to establish the rule of law.

Arafat told Christopher that money and speedy elections are the key to stability, and that he had called for elections to be held in November. But he said Israel is delaying them despite his recognition of Israel's security concerns.

Meanwhile, a debate at yesterday's second cabinet meeting on

the direction of the peace process with the Palestinians ended inconclusively. Another special cabinet session on the matter is expected today.

At the cabinet session, Peres attacked Intelligence Branch chief Maj.-Gen. Uri Sagnu, who was quoted as telling the cabinet on Sunday that Gaza is "undergoing 'Lebanonization.'" Peres called this an exaggeration, echoing the point of view Foreign Ministry director for intelligence and research David Afek presented at a Foreign Ministry meeting on

Tuesday. Most ministers appeared to go out of their way to strike an upbeat note about the future of the talks with the Palestinians, while offering virtually no specifics.

At yesterday's Cairo talks on elections and redeployment, PA Planning Minister Nabil Shaath told reporters that while the Palestinians are firm in their commitment to elections and Israel's security concerns, "I don't think there is clear substance in Israel's program."

Foreign Ministry Director-Gen-

eral Uri Savir told AP in Cairo that Israel has every intention of carrying out the next phase of the accord.

"We clearly reiterated Israel's determination to implement the next phase in all its parts," he said, adding that within the accord we "can find the necessary flexibility to... overcome obstacles that exist on the ground."

Christopher agreed on the need "for holding elections at an early date," but argued that Arafat must make good on his commitment to "carry out those responsibilities against terror and violence" called for in the Oslo agreement.

In a veiled message to Hamas, Arafat told the joint press conference that "everybody has to understand that there is one authority, the Palestine National Authority, in Palestinian territory, and everyone has to respect the law," AP reported.

PA security services head Mohammed Dahalan, who participated in the Cairo talks, said his people cannot take responsibility for the security of Jewish residents in Gaza, Israel Radio reported.

A private delegation led by former assistant secretary of state Joseph Sisco met with Faisal Husseini at Orient House yesterday and heard the same Palestinian demands concerning elections. One Palestinian participant said that the Americans asked whether elections are possible without an IDF redeployment, and the Palestinians had said this would be impossible.

Christopher's reference to accountability, the term used by the World Bank for fiscal responsibility, was a clear indication that funds from donor countries will not be transferred until there is evidence of proper PA accounting procedures.

"The US, along with the international community, will do all that we can to help them develop their capabilities to get the job done. The donors meeting in Brussels was a reflection of our commitment in that direction," Christopher said.

Palestinians torpedo signing of pact with Histadrut

MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE signing of a pact between the Histadrut and the Palestinian trade unions in Brussels was canceled last night when the Palestinians suddenly demanded that the Histadrut support the division of Jerusalem and a Palestinian state.

The Histadrut leaders stormed out of the conference room in the Belgian capital minutes before the pact-signing ceremony, after the Palestinians issued their unexpected demands.

Histadrut sources said they believed the Palestinian representatives were being pressured to torpedo the ceremony, and therefore raised demands they knew would lead to its cancellation.

The cooperation agreement had been reached in principle last

month, and was initiated by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. No political demands were mentioned at the time.

The agreement deals with labor and economic issues, mainly regulating the flow of Histadrut funds to the Palestinian organizations. Histadrut sources said yesterday. These funds represent deductions the Histadrut has taken from Palestinian workers' salaries; the final sum has yet to be determined.

Histadrut Chairman Haim Ramon, Trade Union Section chairman Amir Peretz, foreign relations department head Jacques Neriah, and executive member Jihad Akel were to attend the ceremony.

Five Palestinian trade union leaders, headed by Hashem Biari of Gaza and Shaber Sa'ed of Nabulus, were also to have signed the pact.

The ceremony's cancellation followed another embarrassing incident. Initially, the pact was to have been signed in Oslo, as part of the Nobel Peace Prize events over the weekend.

However, the Norwegian organizers sent invitations to five Palestinian trade union leaders from Tunis, rather than to Biari and Sa'ed, who had negotiated the agreement in Gaza with the Histadrut representatives.

Benizri: Doctors feed fetuses to dogs

JUDY SIEGEL

PRIVATE abortion doctors "keep dogs in their clinics to dispose of fetuses," Shas MK Shlomo Benizri claimed yesterday during a meeting of the Knesset Labor and Social Affairs committee.

Benizri, who presented a motion to the agenda about the "30,000 abortions each year, some of them illegal," did not provide proof of this contention, but committee chairman MK Yossi Katz said this "serious charge demands clarification."

Katz said all the committee members favor observance of the existing abortion law, which allows ending a pregnancy if a public committee approves it. Benizri demanded that the police

enforce the law and find out where illegal abortions take place.

MK Tamar Gozansky said contraceptive devices should be distributed free to all teenage girls and women, and must be included in the national health insurance basket of services.

Dr. Yoram Lotan, a Health Ministry official, said abortions may be carried out legally in certain authorized clinics because women fear undergoing the procedure where they may be recognized. They pay between NIS 1,000 and NIS 7,000 for a legal abortion, he said. But it was difficult to prevent illegal abor-

tions, as "women who want one will find a way to do it."

Aliza Margolis of the Israel Police said only one complaint about illegal abortions was received in 1993, and the file was closed because the person who performed it could not be identified. "It's hard to investigate a crime about which there are no complaints," she said.

Dr. Eli Shusheim, of the Efrat organization, said many women would not seek an abortion if they were helped to realize that the embryo is a living thing. Daniella Bamberg of the Israel Women's Network said: "Benizri wants neither abortions nor contraception."

Two soldiers killed, one injured in accident

When the Histadrut leaders learned of this, they immediately canceled their flight to Oslo and organized the pact-signing ceremony in Brussels.

At the last moment, the Norwegians sent invitations to the right Palestinians, but it was too late to cancel the Brussels event, Histadrut sources said.

TWO soldiers were killed in a Tuesday night accident caused by a mechanical failure in the equipment they were using.

The IDF would not officially disclose the exact details of the accident, which occurred at a large base in the center of the country.

Capt. Shmuel Ben-Gershon, of Jerusalem, and Staff Sgt. Moshe Cohen, of Bat Yam, were killed. Both were buried yesterday.

Another officer was seriously injured in the accident. *Alon Pinkas*

PRESS CONFERENCE
 TODAY

Kaare Kristiansen

joined by

Natan Sharansky

Yehuda Wachsman

Yona Baumel

speaking out for Israel's missing Soldiers

Exactly one year ago this week, Yasser Arafat, who will be awarded the Nobel Peace prize on Saturday, returned half of Zachary Baumel's I.D. tag. At that time, the PLO promised further information within two weeks. This commitment was reiterated in the May 4 Cairo Agreement.

No information has been forthcoming.

12 noon

Holiday Inn, Jerusalem
 (formerly Hilton)

Accredited journalists are welcome.

On Saturday night, December 10 at 7:00 p.m., at a public event at the Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem, as Yasser Arafat receives his Nobel Prize in Oslo, Mr. Kristiansen will speak, and will receive a silver dog-tag on behalf of the families of the MIAs, from the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers.

For more information, please contact
 the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers
 02-236-083, 236-091

More fighting reported in security zone

DAVID RUDGE

MORE fighting was reported in the security zone yesterday following Tuesday's roadside bomb attack in which St.-Sgt. Avi Abuksis was killed and another soldier wounded.

Abuksis, 30, from Dimona, a member of a Nahal unit, was buried at the military cemetery of his hometown yesterday.

The wounded soldier is recovering in Haifa's Rambam Hospital after undergoing an operation

on his eyes.

"Yesterday afternoon you walked ahead of your soldiers and marched to your death," said Abuksis's battalion commander at the funeral, which was attended by thousands of Dimona residents.

"You were a personal example," he continued. "You were a serious and thinking commander. That is how we will always remember you." Abuksis leaves his parents and two younger brothers, one of whom is to be inducted shortly.

Reports from Lebanon said an IDF armored patrol came under fire from Sagger missiles and

automatic weapons in the western sector of the zone yesterday afternoon.

The incident occurred in the vicinity of Barasheet village. There were no reports of any casualties.

Earlier, several mortar rounds exploded on open land near IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the eastern sector of the zone, without causing any casualties or damage.

Reports from Lebanon said IDF and SLA gunners intermittently shelled terrorist targets north of the zone in the eastern sector.

Meanwhile, senior officers in Northern Command yesterday continued the inquiry in to the bomb attack near Ras Bayada village, not far from the coast, in which Abuksis was killed.

It appeared that the bomb had been planted the previous night and was comprised of a large quantity of explosives. It was apparently detonated from a distance as the patrol of Nahal soldiers and Armored Corps troops was passing.

Initial findings revealed that the troops had acted in accordance with prevailing procedures and safety precautions. *Amir Rozenblit contributed to this report*



08121004

Rabin: Christopher's intervention hasn't changed Assad's positions

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher has failed to substantially change Damascus's negotiating positions, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin indicated yesterday after being briefed on Tuesday's talks between the US official and Syrian President Hafez Assad.

"I don't as yet clearly see a considerable improvement in positions, [for a change] in positions," Rabin told reporters, while standing alongside Christopher.

The secretary of state, however, disagreed. After meeting Foreign Minister Shimon Peres last night, Christopher said the "gaps are narrowing."

A senior Clinton administration official said privately last night, "there has been movement on a number of the legs of the table, but there has not yet been agreement on any one of them."

The term "four legs" has been used as a euphemism for: Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, normalization of ties, the timetable of both, and security arrangements.

DAVID MAKOVSKY

The senior administration official denied that the recent shuttle trips have been a failure, and said the format would continue.

Rabin's reaction yesterday suggests that Assad was not receptive to a proposal the prime minister made during his White House meeting with President Clinton last month. Details of the proposal have not been made public.

Officials say Christopher brought Rabin's idea to Damascus on Tuesday.

While complaining about the substance of Syria's positions, Rabin conceded that the verbal dueling between Damascus and Jerusalem of the last few weeks should stop.

"I am convinced creating a more relaxed atmosphere, [with] fewer bombastic statements, will enable a return to an atmosphere that gives a chance to advancing the process," he said.

Last week, Assad said he preferred the

status quo to Israel's demands for peace, which he termed "impossible." Rabin indicated that unless a breakthrough occurred over the next nine months, he doubted it would occur at all.

Christopher leaves this morning for Miami. Peres, meanwhile, sounded annoyed yesterday morning, charging Assad with foot-dragging.

Speaking on Israel Radio, Peres declared, "The problem is that Assad is putting forward unacceptable conditions, and he wants Israel to first accept his positions, and then there will be negotiations. This is not serious."

"He complains that we are not seeking to accommodate him," Peres continued. "What does that mean? We have announced the principle of withdrawal and the principle that security arrangements must be acceptable to both sides."

He said Syria is acting in a "spoiled" manner.

High Court: Areas' building freeze is not discriminatory

EVELYN GORDON

THE freeze on construction in the territories does not discriminate against Jews, because they have a different legal status than either their Arab neighbors or Jews living in Israel, the High Court of Justice ruled yesterday.

Meanwhile, the court threw out a petition by MK Shaul Yaalon (NRP) against the prayer arrangements at the Machpelah Cave, saying it could not substitute itself for the army on security questions.

The ruling on the freeze was in response to two petitions — one by Amman, Gush Emunim's settlement wing, against the policy in general, and one by Kiryat Arba against the freeze of two specific projects.

Amman's main argument was that the freeze discriminated against Jewish residents of the territories, with respect to both Arab residents of the territories and Jewish residents of Israel. Either of the latter two, Amman argued, could file a building plan and expect to have it approved, as long as it met all legal requirements. A similar plan would be approved for residents of the territories, however, only if failure to approve it would cause real suffering to the population.

However, Justices Dov Levine, Theodor Orr, and Eliahu Mazza

ruled that the freeze is not discriminatory, because Jewish residents of the territories are not legally equivalent to either of the other two groups. They are not equivalent to Israeli residents because they are under military law rather than Israeli law, and they are not equivalent to Arab residents of the territories because a host of special laws have been applied to them. The freeze is no more discriminatory than previous government policies of putting money into the settlements, they said.

"Furthermore... when a claim of discrimination is raised, the entire picture must be examined," the justices wrote. "And for many years, the government's policy granted many benefits to Jewish settlements in Judea and Samaria — including government expenditures of hundreds of millions of shekels on the settlements' development."

Once the discrimination claim has been proven false, the justices continued, the petition reduces to an attack on government policy — and the court cannot put itself in place of the government on questions of policy.

As for Kiryat Arba's specific claim, they added, the petitioners

failed to show that the government's exceptions committee rejected their requests for improper reasons, so the court must assume its reasons were valid — particularly as it has okayed projects in other settlements.

Yaalon's petition on the Machpelah Cave primarily attacked the army's decision to bar Jews from the Isaac Hall — the largest and the one considered to be directly over the tomb of the patriarchs — on all but 10 days of the year. Yaalon claimed this violated the Shomron Commission's directives.

However, said Justices Eliahu Mazza, Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen, the Shomron Commission had explicitly refrained from recommending specific arrangements. It merely said Arab and Jewish worshippers should be separated in either time or space, and left the security forces to figure out how best to do this.

"What do you want from us? That we... should decide on security arrangements [in place of the army]?" Mazza demanded of Yaalon's lawyer. "We don't give instructions on how to make security arrangements at a given place."

The justices therefore threw out the petition.



Suhra Arafat, Leah Rabin, Hillary Clinton, Queen Noor, and Jehan Sadat look-alikes model Hamashbir Lezarchan's winter fashions at a show in Tel Aviv yesterday.

Ba-Gad's antics 'dishonor Knesset'

DAN IZENBERG

MK YOSEF Ba-Gad yesterday recited a psalm, sang the El Maleh Rahamin prayer for the dead, and handed Deputy Speaker Ovadia Eli a toy hammer and a small knife at the end of a speech on terrorist killings in Afula, while the town's mayor and bereaved relatives looked on from the gallery.

But Ba-Gad refrained from carrying out a threat to display a ketchup-stained ax on the podium, after Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss had warned him that bringing a weapon into the Knesset is against the law. The ax was meant to stress the cruelty of the Palestinian terrorist who hacked List Gabai to death in Afula last week.

Ba-Gad said he backed down reluctantly. "I was sent to the Knesset by the people and my party," he said at the end of his speech. "I am obliged to them, not to the Knesset Speaker."

Eli told Ba-Gad his "behavior is a dishonor to the Knesset," and accused him of resorting to gimmicks to attract media attention. MK Naomi Chazan (Meretz) submitted a complaint to the Ethics Committee, and said Ba-Gad's behavior was an insult to the citizenry in its time of mourning.

Ba-Gad is one of four MKs who plan to fly to Oslo on Friday to protest the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Yasser Arafat. The prize is to be given to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and Arafat on Saturday evening.

Ba-Gad said as many as 1,000 protesters from all over the world, including three plane-loads from Israel, are expected in Oslo to protest Arafat's prize. Likud MKs Tzahi Hanegbi, Ariel Weinstein, and Ron Nachman will be among the protesters.

Ba-Gad said he had been invited to take part in the protest by the father of Maya Elbarar, a victim of last spring's Afula suicide bus bombing. He said he was also invited to deliver a sermon on Friday night at the synagogue where Rabin and Peres are expected to pray.

Hanan Porat (NRP) wrote a letter to the members of the Nobel Prize Committee, calling on them to withdraw Arafat's prize because he continues to call for the violent destruction of Israel.

Soldiers, PA policemen involved in brawl

ALON PINKAS

IDF soldiers and several Palestinian policemen got into a brawl yesterday after an out-of-uniform Palestinian policeman was apprehended by an IDF patrol in the Gaza Strip.

At about 2 p.m. a car approached the IDF position at the Morag junction on its way to Rafiah. Soldiers manning the post noticed that the driver was armed and immediately apprehended him.

The man identified himself as a policeman dressed in civilian clothes; and was also identified by Palestinian policemen who had arrived at the junction.

They demanded his release and an argument ensued that turned into a brawl. The fight lasted until border policemen, aided by other Palestinian policemen, intervened.

Gorbachev dissatisfied with Israel, Arabs in peacemaking

DUBAI: United Arab Emirates

(AP) — Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev, who co-chaired the Madrid conference on Middle East peacemaking with George Bush, said yesterday he was not happy with Israel's performance.

"I'm not at all happy with the current approach by the Israelis towards the PLO problem," Gorbachev told a press conference at the conclusion of a three-day visit. "They appear to be slowing down the peace process with the PLO, which does not do much good for the region."

Gorbachev was invited by the United Arab Emirates to inaugurate the Technosphere 94 Information Technology

exhibition, where he delivered a lecture on the necessity of a free flow of information.

While flailing Israel, Gorbachev also said he felt the Arab world was not doing enough to bolster the peace process between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization and urged them to provide support so the conflict would be resolved "fully and finally."

"During the Madrid talks, George Bush and I had suggested the setting up of regional security for the Middle East and I feel the Arab world should work toward that goal for lasting peace in a very vital area of the world," Gorbachev said.

Border policemen get 6 months for beating Arab

RAINE MARCUS

SIX border policemen who beat and kicked an Israeli Arab were each sentenced to six months jail terms by Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday. They were also given one year suspended sentences and each was ordered by Judge Miriam Sokolov to pay their victim NIS 1,000 compensation.

The victim, Abed Abu Ts'aluk, had complained to the Association for Civil Rights in Israel. Following a preliminary investigation, police recommended disciplinary proceedings, but the State

Attorney's Office decided to indict them.

In June 1990, Haim Kanas, Binyamin Marciano, David Yemin, Yofiel Yefet, Shabtai Hakim, and Amnon Maor were patrolling Ramat Gan and Tel Aviv searching for thieves. They went into Ramat Gan's Ayalon Mall, where Abu Ts'aluk, of Lod, worked in a supermarket. He accidentally knocked Kanas with a cart he was pushing, and in the

ensuing argument he was slapped.

The other five border policemen then dragged Abu Ts'aluk into a nearby bookstore and beat him. They then took him into the parking lot, where they continued beating and kicking him. As a result, Abu Ts'aluk suffered several injuries, including a punctured left ear drum.

The six also arrested a passerby who witnessed the beating, and had asked them to stop and to

show identification.

"The defendants violated all norms of acceptable behavior," said Judge Sokolov in passing sentence. They abused their authority and damaged the public's trust in those whose duty it is to enforce the law and keep the peace, she added.

She refused to trade the prison sentences for community service, as requested by defense lawyers. "The punishment should deter others from committing similar offenses," she said.

Clinton invites officials to discuss setting up ME development bank

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

PRESIDENT Clinton has issued invitations to Middle East officials for talks in Washington next month to discuss setting up a development bank. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said yesterday following his meeting with US Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Peres is a leading proponent of the idea of a regional bank to help finance infrastructure and government projects from North Africa to the Persian Gulf which would solidify ties between Israel and the Arab world.

"We are very glad that the pres-

ident of the United States has sent out invitations for January 10, to deal with the issue of the development bank of the Middle East," Peres said.

"This will be for the first time a serious, positive institute how to deal with the economic issues of the Middle East in a responsible manner and to create a market economy."

The idea of the bank, to be called the Middle East Bank of Economic Cooperation and Development, grew out of last month's economic summit in Casablanca.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Thousands attend rally for Hebron

Thousands of people jammed the Jerusalem International Convention Center last night for an assembly on behalf of the Jewish community in Hebron.

The crowd was addressed by Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu, and former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"We are in Hebron by right, but also by the force of possession and inheritance. We will not forfeit our rights, nor the force to defend our rights," Netanyahu said.

Ex-general irritates Likud members

Former OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. (res.) Avigdor Ben-Gal aroused a storm during a Likud forum when he said that Israel "had no choice but to return to Syria what had been taken from it by force."

Members of the audience said he had no right to make such statements at a Likud gathering.

Ben-Gal then explained that Israel had benefited from signing treaties with two of its neighbors, and he expected that Israel and Syria would do so within three years. He admitted, though, that "Syria is a hard nut to crack."

Achinoam Nini to appear on Iranian TV

The Arab Satellite Broadcast System will screen a concert by singer Achinoam Nini that was recorded in Rome this week, her record company Geffen announced last night. The concert, including performances in Hebrew and Yemetic, will be broadcast in its entirety in countries like Iran and Syria, the first time an Israeli artist will appear on those countries' TV screens.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

A DRAFT agreement on the deployment of 400 temporary international observers in Gaza and Jericho has been initiated by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PA Planning Minister Nabil

Shaath, according to a copy made available by Palestinian sources.

The observers from seven countries are to be stationed in Gaza, Rafiah, Khan Yunis, Deir el-Balah, Jabalya refugee camp, Abasan (near Khan Yunis), Beit Hanoun, and Jericho. Among countries which have been asked to participate are Turkey, Norway, Finland, Australia, and Canada.

The four-page document was dated October 23, but no date was provided for its implementation. A Temporary International Presence is called for in Annex II, Article 3 of the Oslo accords in the framework of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho.

Its functions would include promoting stability, economic development, and training of Palestinian police.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of

ANN ADLER נ"י

of Florida.

mother of Alan Adler and Ruth Coren

Funeral to take place in New York today, December 8, 1994.

Shiva from Friday at the Residence of Alan and Valerie Adler, 16 Maiki Street, Yemin Moshe, Jerusalem.

In deep sorrow, we announce the death of my dear wife, our mother, my sister, our grandmother

LAKY KAHN

The funeral will take place tomorrow, Friday, December 9, 1994 (5 Tevet 5755) at 12:00, in the Yarkon cemetery (trans-Samaria road).

Shiva at the home of the deceased, 5 Suskin, Zahala.

The Bereaved Family

CONGRATULATIONS to the woman we all love **ANNA LIPTZIN**

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THE JERUSALEM POST FORSAKE ME NOT FUND

SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE FOR YOU

Once when you were young, life was full of little joys and big disasters. Fortunately, no matter what there was someone you could always turn to — to make the hurt less painful, the problem less confusing, the loneliness less frightening. Your mother's love was unconditional as it was boundless.

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Post For-sake Me Not Fund. Tens of thousands of poor and lonely mothers and grandmothers throughout Israel look to the Fund to provide winter heating, warm clothing and other basic necessities.

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Auction Manager: Daniel Raviv of Gallery International 93 Ramat-Yam st. Herzelia Pituah. Tel. 09-5620999

Signs mount of UN plans to withdraw from Bosnia

News agencies

SARAJEVO - UN officials said yesterday they were planning to withdraw 400 poorly supplied Bangladeshi troops stuck in the middle of vicious fighting in northwest Bosnia.

Velika Kladusa, in the far northwest corner of Bosnia, is held by government soldiers but appears to be close to falling to a month-long assault by renegade Muslims and Serbs.

In Brussels, NATO decided yesterday to ask member states how many troops they might be willing to contribute to any operation to pull UN peacekeeping forces out of Bosnia, NATO sources said.

"Military authorities have received permission to go out and ask countries to indicate their initial possibilities of contributing (to a pull-out enabling force)," one source said.

France said yesterday it had asked the United Nations and NATO to make detailed plans to withdraw peacekeepers from Bosnia because mediation efforts had reached a dead end.

"The decision which we are being forced into will mean war, more unhappiness and more suffering," Foreign Minister Alain Juppe told the National Assembly, adding that he feared the Balkans would soon be "set ablaze."

Saying France had done all it could in the former Yugoslavia to avert the current impasse, he blamed obstinacy by all sides in the war as well as US policy.

NATO ambassadors at their weekly meeting approved the request from the military authorities to go ahead with contingency planning for a possible withdrawal in hostile conditions of the 23,000 UN peacekeeping troops in Bosnia.

Some 20,000 to 25,000 troops would be required to undertake such an operation.

They stressed no member state indicated at yesterday's meeting that withdrawal of UNPROFOR (UN Protection Force) troops was imminent or likely but that contingency planning had to go ahead with circumstances deteriorating in Bosnia.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl's

government meanwhile side-stepped a controversial NATO bid to enlist German warplanes for Bosnia by saying the Atlantic alliance had made no formal request.

Kohl's top aide said the government saw the NATO request as an informal "preliminary inquiry."

"Considering these circumstances, the federal government sees no need to make a decision," Chancellor Minister Friedrich Bohl said in statement after Kohl discussed the issue with Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel and Defense Minister Volker Ruehe.

"It was not a formal or official request by NATO. This has since been confirmed in a letter to the German government from the NATO secretary-general (Willy Claes)," Bohl said.

Kohl's center-right coalition wants a wider military role for united Germany but was rattled by the NATO query because of the political sensitivity of deploying forces in regions like former Yugoslavia where Nazi troops fought in World War II.

Despite heavy shelling in recent days, UN sources in Bosnia said there appeared to be no point in keeping the Bangladeshi soldiers in Velika Kladusa.

About 1,200 soldiers arrived this fall to replace French troops, but officials said only about one in six had his own gun.

Details of the pullout are sketchy, but UN officials hope to withdraw troops overland through Serb-held territory in Croatia to Zagreb.

In Zagreb, sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said about 100 Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers would be moved out of the area per day.

The sources said the United Nations still had to get approval for the plan from the combatants, and predicted that the Bosnian government might object.

Besides a couple of small supply convoys, Serbs have refused to allow UN convoys for the Bangladeshis to cross the territory they hold in Croatia.



Two Russian prisoners of war, held by the Chechen government, carry a coffin containing the body of a fellow soldier onto a plane to Moscow. (AP)

Nerves taut after Chechnya accord

GROZNY (AP) - The last of the Russian soldiers captured during a rebel assault on the Chechen capital will be released today, a government spokesman said.

Shirvani Bashayev of the National Information Service said seven Russian prisoners will be turned over to Russia on humanitarian grounds. "We don't need them," he said yesterday.

The Russians, all army officers or soldiers, were captured Nov. 26 when forces opposed to Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev attempted to seize the presidential palace, but were repulsed.

Chechnya's agreement to let the prisoners go has eased fears of war in the rebel republic, but nerves

remained stretched in the capital Grozny.

A Russian jet fighter roared over the city late yesterday morning, a reminder that Tuesday's agreement between a defiant Dudayev and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev did not resolve the dispute.

The region's residents are acutely aware that thousands of Russian troops remain on alert throughout the northern Caucasus territory.

Seven other Russian servicemen released by Chechnya returned to Moscow early yesterday, along with coffins carrying the remains of three soldiers killed in the assault on Grozny.

Dudayev and Grachev agreed to pull back from military confrontation, but the underlying issue of Chechen independence - and Moscow's insistence that Chechen officials renounce it - remained.

Yesterday, people on the street in Grozny barely lifted their heads as unexplained gunfire boomed through the city center.

In front of the presidential building on Freedom Square yesterday, several hundred elders and volunteers gathered to chew over Tuesday's agreement.

"We want peace," said 64-year-old Yusuf Umarov, a Chechen elder sporting a tall lambskin hat and silver whiskers. "But we still want independence."

Dudayev's continued insistence on Chechen independence, first declared to the Kremlin's chagrin in 1991, makes any agreement with the Russian government unlikely. Moscow believes that Chechen independence would start a flood of other nationalist claims within Russia's multi-ethnic federation.

"There won't be a war now, but there will be - Russia will never agree to let us go," said one senior Chechen official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

While many Chechens would relish independence, three years of economic dislocation and a virtual blockade by Russia have brought the territory's economy to its knees.

Iran welcomes acquittal in Bakhtiar trial

PARIS (Reuters) - Iran yesterday welcomed the acquittal of one of three Iranians accused of the murder of the Shah of Iran's last prime minister, Shapur Bakhtiar, saying it proved Tehran was not involved in the slaying.

But the opposition National Council of Resistance of Iran (NCRI) urged international sanctions on Tehran, saying the convictions of two others by a Paris court proved Iran was behind the 1991 slaying.

After a month-long trial, seven judges in a special anti-terrorist

court sentenced Iranian Ali Vakili Rad to life in jail for killing Bakhtiar and his secretary at his exile home in a Paris suburb.

Massoud Hendi was sentenced to 10 years in jail for complicity in the slaying, but Zeynalabedine Sarhadi, a great-nephew of Iran's President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, was acquitted of charges of complicity and freed.

Lawyers for Vakili Rad and Hendi said yesterday they were appealing against the sentences.

Prosecutors had argued the three men acted on direct orders from

Iran's revolutionary government. But the allegations of Iranian involvement rested heavily on charges that Sarhadi, an employee at the Berne embassy in 1991, had helped the killers.

"We have repeatedly said that the government of Iran has not been involved in this issue," Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said.

"Now we can see that your (French) court has proved that the government of Iran is not involved and has not been involved," said Velayati.

US school agrees not to teach creation

PITTSBURGH (AP) - A school district has agreed not to teach the Bible's story of the earth's creation in science classes to settle a lawsuit filed by two students.

The Moon Area School District near Pittsburgh settled with the students in federal court last week, the western Pennsylvania chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union said yesterday.

The students alleged that a ninth-grade biology lesson last spring at Moon High School violated the legally required separation of church and state.

"Neither creation science nor any religious belief shall be taught as being true or correct because a deity, the Bible or a religious tenet so states," the settlement states.

"A literal interpretation of the Book of Genesis shall not be taught as science or in a science class as fact," the settlement said.

Warren Kooi, the district's technology coordinator, appeared as a guest speaker and told students God created the world 6,000 years ago during a six-day period, the lawsuit said.

His lesson included assertions that death was unknown on the planet until Adam and Eve ate forbidden fruit and that Noah and others on his ark survived a worldwide flood.

Major vows to fight on after crushing defeat

ALAN WHEATLEY
LONDON

PRIME Minister John Major battled to reassert his political authority yesterday by approving a rise in interest rates just hours after Conservative party rebels humiliated him in a parliamentary vote.

The defeat over a key element of his budget left Major looking more than ever like the lame-duck head of a minority administration doomed to turch from crisis to crisis until the next election, due by mid-1997.

Officials said Major was determined to fight on and had told businessmen at a private meeting he is confident of getting his full legislative program through parliament.

"It is a serious exaggeration to say that the government cannot conduct its business and that the government cannot govern," one senior government official said.

Major faced another serious challenge last night or today when the House of Commons votes again on controversial legislation to increase Britain's contribution to the European Union budget.

The government won the first vote on the EU budget last week but paid a heavy price by kicking out from the parliamentary party eight Conservatives who refused to support the bill.

Their expulsion technically wiped out Major's 14-seat majority in the 651-seat House of Commons and made it harder for the government's business managers to "whip" the rebels into line in Tuesday night's vote to raise tax on home heating bills.

Five of the eight outcasts abstained on the tax increase and three voted against, helping to hand Major an eight-vote defeat that stunned ministers and overjoyed the opposition.

"The government can't even get its own budget through," Labor leader Tony Blair said. "It is terminally incapable of asserting authority over its own party."

Finance minister Kenneth Clarke, who immediately abandoned plans to more than double Value Added Tax on gas and electricity bills, will present a new package of tax and spending measures to parliament today to plug the 1.5 billion pound (\$2.35 billion) hole punched in his budget by the tax defeat.

With financial markets unsettled by the government's defeat, Clarke wasted no time by ordering a half-point increase in borrowing costs to 6.25 percent to head off a possible run on sterling and show the government was in control of the economy.

Clarke got the green light from Major to raise rates after the VAT defeat. He brought forward a scheduled meeting early yesterday with Bank of England Governor Eddie George, who urged a swift increase to end market jitters.

Government officials said the move was fully justified because the strength of the economy threatened to rekindle inflation. But a senior official acknowledged that the VAT vote debacle was "part of the reason" for the timing of the increase.

Financial markets duly cheered the rise as a timely move to end uncertainty. Shares, government bonds and sterling all rose.

But Labor condemned the rise and Howard Davies, the head of the Confederation of British Industry, said business was uneasy.

(Reuters)

Italians sad to see star magistrate Di Pietro go

MILAN (Reuters) - Star prosecutor Antonio Di Pietro, the symbol of Italy's anti-graft purge, returned to his Milan offices yesterday for a tearful farewell party after his shock resignation.

While most of the city was on holiday, celebrating a local saint's day, Milan's labyrinthine court house came to life 24 hours after Di Pietro stunned the country by quitting from the crack "Clean Hands" pool of magistrates.

Only his closest colleagues were invited to the small leaving party in the former policeman's offices, where his secretaries presented an emotional Di Pietro with a cake. The word "Thankyou" was written on the top.

Hundreds of well-wishers had gathered outside the imposing building Tuesday night following the resignation announcement, but on a cold, damp morning only a handful turned out to show their support

yesterday.

"The man's a legend in his own lifetime," said Vito Dariza, who owns a flower stall opposite the offices where Di Pietro and the Clean Hands team have masterminded their dazzling, two and a half year crack-down on corruption throughout Italian society.

The 44-year old magistrate enjoys film-star status in this northern Italian city, and many people were eager to know what the former policeman would do now.

"He seemed so enthusiastic about his job, and then bang, he suddenly walks out," said pensioner Giorgio Zini. "I think he's got some political job lined up," he added.

Others disagreed, pointing out that Di Pietro turned down an offer earlier this year from Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi - now under investigation for alleged corruption himself - to become interior minister.

"He's not interested in politics, he's an honest person," said a young supporter, Valeria Pagani. "He'll go back to the countryside and work on his family's farm," she suggested.

Di Pietro, who said in his resignation letter that he was being used in a game of political tug-of-war, has remained silent about his future. While most people seemed eager for him to continue in his post, many were resigned to his going.

"He has made an enormous sacrifice. Being a magistrate was his life, but he has had to give it up because the political pressure on him has become impossible," said student Giulia Persico, signing a petition in support of the prosecutor.

News of Di Pietro's resignation dominated newspapers and television, sending shockwaves far beyond Milan.

Repeated opinion surveys have shown the handsome, black-haired prosecutor as

the man most Italians would like as their leader if they had the choice.

Television viewing figures showed a special report on Di Pietro's resignation attracted an even bigger audience than a live soccer match on another channel.

In a rare feat in soccer-mad Italy, nearly 4.6 million Italians watched the report on RAI Uno compared with 4.3 million who saw Juventus beat Admira Wacker of Austria 2-1 in a UEFA Cup game shown of RAI Due, the figures showed.

In Rome, most people questioned expressed their sorrow at Di Pietro's departure, but some said he was partly to blame.

"He had become a celebrity. I think that in order for a magistrate to do a proper job he must work more in the shadows and not in the public spotlight like Di Pietro," said Luigi Marilungo, a Rome city administrator.



Now more than ever, you ought to take a chance.

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CHANCE



Whip out a brochure to whip over a cake

OFF THE SHELF
MARTHA MESELS

YOU'VE heard of paint-by-numbers; now you can buy cakes by numbers.

A new chain of cake shops called Coppenrath is selling frozen German-made tortes, Swiss rolls and strudels from what is said to be the largest pastry factory in Europe. Its full name abroad is Conditorei Coppenrath & Wiese.

Coppenrath uses whole milk, real cream and other time-honored ingredients in its production. The fresh fruits are grown expressly for the company.

The first Hebrew brochure lists 34 selections, ranging in price from NIS 17 to NIS 59 - cheaper than many of the fancy local cakes.

Each appears in the color brochure with a photograph, description, weight, price and catalog number. Many of them are rich, creamy cakes for those who like more cream than cake. No. 24, for example, is Peach Melba Cream Torte, 1.5 kg., a whipped cream cake with peaches, topped with cream, strawberries and almond slivers, NIS 59. It has a real peach flavor.

Chocolate-lovers will choose No. 186 - Chocolate Dream, 500 grams, three layers filled with chocolate mousse, topped with chocolate curls, NIS 35.

The strudels (apple/raisin, cheese/raisin, or mixed fruit, 600 gr.) and the cream-filled cake rolls (400 gr.) are only NIS 18. The strudels, unlike the other cakes available, must be baked.

Cheapest of all is a box with 20 tiny cream puffs, which I found disappointing.

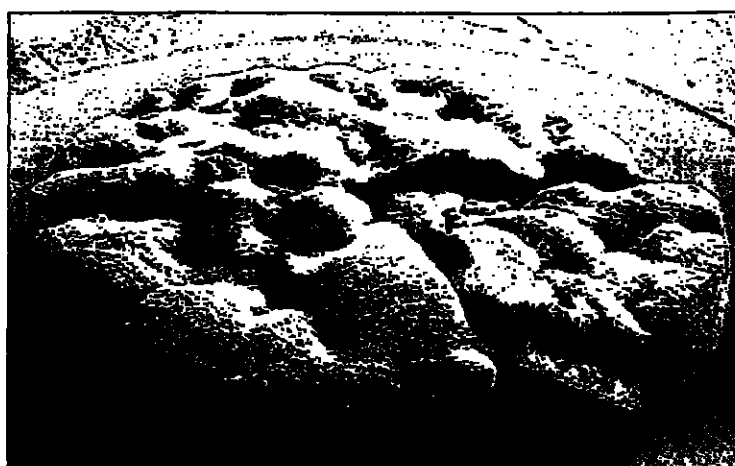
My favorite was No. 60, a lemon cheese cake with whipped cream. It weighs 850 gr. and sells for NIS 45. My second choice was No. 184, a cream-filled torte topped with blackberries, blueberries and red raspberries - 750 gr., NIS 35.

Those who cannot make up their minds can order No. 5, a selection of 10 different types in a gift box, 800 gr., NIS 50.

When they come off the assembly lines, Coppenrath cakes are cooled briefly to minus 64 degrees C, then kept at minus 18°C all the way to the customer. They have a freezer shelf-life of up to 18 months from production.

After defrosting, they keep fresh in a refrigerator for six days, according to Rivka Barlev, general manager of M.R. Barlev of Haifa, which imports the cakes and runs the Coppenrath shops.

The cakes will not be sold elsewhere. Shops have been opened in Mercat Oppenheimer in the Neve Avdim section of Tel Aviv, 03-642-7949; in Ramot Sapir, Haifa, 04-322066 and 04-378709, and



Coppenrath's cakes and tortes can be chosen by number (clockwise from above): cherry cake, Black-Forest Swiss roll, and melba peach torte; a still-life of a pomegranate, a reproduction of a 19th-century print, is part of a series called Fruits of the Bible from the Holy Land.

in the Haifa Bayside area, 04-722396.

There is a NIS 5 charge for home delivery.

Ra'anana and Rishon LeZion will have branches shortly, followed by Jerusalem, Ramat Gan, Herzliya, Netanya and North Tel Aviv.

The imported cakes are in the final stages of getting "kosher dairy" approval from former IDF chief chaplain Rabbi Mordechai Piron (without a supplementary endorsement by the Israeli Chief Rabbinate).

A NEW kind of guidebook for traveling Israelis may prevent the annoyance of buying something abroad and then finding it at the same price, or even cheaper, here at home. The booklet provides the current prices of goods on the Israeli market in both shekel and dollar terms, so that travelers can easily compare them with price tags abroad.

Entitled "Konim Behul?" ("Shopping abroad?"), the easy-to-carry booklet is published by the Levi Yitzhak assessing firm, best known for its monthly reports on used-car prices.

The first issue, with its red cover, is easy to spot at kiosks and magazine stands. It sells for NIS 10. Updated editions will come out every two months in winter, and monthly from May to September.

You need just minimal knowledge of Hebrew to use it, since most of the fashion and cosmetic names also appear in English. Of the 100 pages, 44 are devoted to perfumes and other cosmetics, 29 pages to shoes and clothing, listed by brand name and description. For instance, you'll find Elizabeth Arden's Mousse Makeup, 50 ml., NIS 117.99 (\$38.60); Nike's Air Max II (for men), NIS 423 (\$141), etc. You'll also find some toys (Barbie, Lego, Fisher Price), elec-

tronics, jewelry, watches and handmade carpets.

No overseas prices are listed. Instead, there are two blank columns for the shopper to jot down comparative prices abroad.

Levi Yitzhak says he's convinced shoppers will find that many items are as cheap, or cheaper, here in Israel.

Future issues may list the customs duty rates for various goods.

IF YOU'RE in the market for Christmas gifts, you might consider the lovely portfolios of art reproductions newly released by the Matan Arts (Matan Omaniyyot in Hebrew) publishing company of Tel Aviv.

Fruits of the Bible from the Holy Land is a collection of 19th-century color prints of the seven species - barley, olives, pomegranates, wheat, dates, vines (grapes) and figs. Each print is reproduced on Italian-made recycled stiff paper with a green border. An appropriate biblical quotation appears under each picture, both in Hebrew and in a choice of English, German or Spanish.

The pictures, 40x33 cm., are meant for framing or just keeping in the portfolio. The set retails for NIS 89 at the Steimatzky and Granit chains, the Graphos store in Jerusalem, and at museum shops.

The second portfolio contains eight reproductions of Reuven Rubin paintings of Israeli cities and still lifes. It sells for NIS 75.

Each portfolio weighs about 500 gr. and requires a large envelope, preferably padded, for gift mailing. If not available with the portfolio, this can be found at office supply stores.

Matan Arts is located at 240 Ben-Yehuda, Tel Aviv, tel. 03-604-8090 or 03-604-7494.

AN EVEN lighter-weight Christmas gift idea comes from M. Pol-



lak, the antiquarian book and map store in Tel Aviv. It suggests an original antique lithograph by the famous British painter David Roberts, who made hundreds of drawings of the Holy Land in the 19th century. Scenes of Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem come with a certificate of authenticity.

Prices range from NIS 90 to NIS 500. Registered air mail adds only NIS 20, either to Europe or the U.S. Shipment can be arranged by the store, 42 King George, Tel Aviv, 03-528-1336, Sunday through Friday 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., plus Tuesday afternoons, 4 to 7. Credit cards or checks are accepted.



AN UPDATE on last week's column: The Häagen-Dazs ice cream sold in the Super-Sol/Hypercol's American Festival does have a kashrut symbol after all, but very well camouflaged. The tiny letters O-U plus D, for dairy, are just barely visible on the box, to the left of the brand name.

Each branch manager is supposed to have a file of all the festival kashrut certificates.

The only products without any kashrut supervision are three canned vegetables with the Green Valley brand name - French-style green beans, lima beans, and cream-style sweet corn.

Festival meat products have fi-

nally cleared bureaucratic red tape and are in the stores.

They include "999"-brand beef frankfurters (454 gr.), bratwurst-type sausages (336 gr.) and Hungarian-style Debreziner sausages (280 gr.), all at NIS 15.90 per package. A small 340-gr. beef salami sells for NIS 13.70. At the delicatessen counters, the same salami is sold sliced at NIS 4 per 100 gr.; 999's beef pastrami is NIS 7 per 100 gr.

All have "O-U glatt" kashrut approval.

My household tried some of these and found that we prefer the Israeli-made equivalents or approximations.

The long and short of it

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

HEMLINES are going up - and down.

Women who prefer the longer length will find what they're looking for at Miss Lagotte, whose extensive choice of French, German, Belgian and Italian imports includes a comprehensive range of suits and coordinated separates by Belgian designer Olivier Strell.

Those who go for brevity might care to take a look at the French

Plein Sud offerings, also at Miss Lagotte.

Local designer Carole Godin, of Comme Il Faut, mixes her proportions with long over short and short over long, topping mini skirts and shorts with long shirts and tunics, which in turn are teamed with cropped gilets.

At Minima the trend is towards classicism, with long, clean lines, minimal detail and a total absence of clutter.

Family car that successfully negotiated the tortuous 'peace rally'

MOTORING
JOEL GORDIN

PEUGEOT 306. Four-door. Engine size: 1,998 cc. Horsepower: 123 at 5,570 rpm. Torque: 18 at 2,750 cc. Gear: manual. Acceleration: 0-100 kph in 10.4 secs. Top speed: 197 kph. Average gasoline consumption: 11.9 km/l. Price: manual, NIS 79,264; automatic: NIS 85,264.

THIRTY-TWO Peugeot 306 2-liter saloon cars left Mersa Matruh on the Egyptian-Libyan border last month for relays by motoring journalists 6,800 kilometers to Amman.

The "peace rally," as it was predictably called, passed through Egypt and southern Israel. Local journalists took part in the last stage, from Eilat to Amman.

About 4,700 kilometers of the route were along roads; the rest was on dirt tracks which would

have been fair tests for the toughest of jeeps.

Peugeot's aim was not to prove that the 306 can replace a robust four-wheel drive. It wanted to associate its flag-car with what the firm calls the "free spirit of adventure."

The route was completed by 29 cars. Only three dropped out because of "human error" - accidents - rather than mechanical failure.

I was amazed by how the 306 stood up to being hammered along dry riverbeds.

If anyone needed proof that Peugeot has recovered from the period when it was considered "unreliable" or "shoddily built," this was it.

It was also my first encounter with the "three-box" version of the 306, with separate engine, passenger and trunk compartments, instead of the "two-box" hatchback.

Although the 306 was launched almost two years ago, the compa-

ny starting producing the "three-box" only in September.

When I first tested the 306 in March last year I pointed out that, in hatchback version, it had one hand tied behind its back in the battle to attract local consumers.

The biggest market segment here is family cars, and Israeli family people like their automobiles to be like a good story - with a beginning, a middle and an end.

Until September, the 306 was a "rich person's 205," vying for the attention of singles and the limited - although growing - number of two-car families. Now, however, the three-box car measures up to any family-size model, including the best that Japan and Korea have to offer.

The addition of the huge, 463-liter trunk has added 24 centimeters to the 306's length. The resulting fat tail spoils the streamlined appearance the car had when it was a hatchback. It now resembles the more conservative Renault 19. However, the extra length does



The Peugeot 306 challenged dirt roads and plowed through dry riverbeds in three different countries.

not impair the 306's superb road-holding, which is bolstered by a superbly designed chassis, the positioning of the wheels near the corners of the squat vehicle and

precise power steering. The fabulous road-holding ensures a high degree of active safety; I would take the model into any bend at reasonable speed. Peugeot is also

proud of its new advanced passive safety measures, ranging from reinforced steel bars in the side doors to sliding web locks on the safety belts.

One of the test drivers in Jordan did, in fact, lose control of his vehicle hitting some rocks at high speed. However, the front part of the auto, although badly damaged, took the impact and the passengers climbed out of the wreck unscathed.

The 306 has other positive "European" features to allure family-car buyers away from the showrooms of Japanese and Korean rivals.

The soft suspension, for example, soaks up bumps on the toughest tracks. I don't think I could have endured the tough tracks in Wadi Rum and Wadi Araba, between Eilat and Amman, on the hard suspensions characteristic of Japanese and Korean cars.

The 306's interior has much more character and its dash is friendlier than the cold lumps of

plastic in Mitsubishis, Toyotas, Hyundais and the rest.

That's not to say there are no flaws in France's No. 1 seller. Some of the controls - for example, those for the power windows - are in inconvenient places. The glove compartment can hold little more than gloves, because the air conditioner (made specially for the Middle East market) guzzles up the space.

Although only 2-liter versions took part in the rally, the three-box 306 will be available in Israel in with 1.4-, 1.6-, and 1.8-liter engines. Automatic shifts can be fitted to the two largest versions.

The new-look 306 is not cheap, but it's more interesting than most of its rivals in the family-size range.

As for reliability, it's impossible to speculate how Mazdas, Landos or their *landsmen* would have handled the dirt tracks on the bumpy roads from Mersa Matruh to Amman. At least Peugeot had the courage to take up the challenge.

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new motor, NIS 300. 02-519141.
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NS.

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Sorry, no listings accepted without a coupon

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Black hole swallows summit

THE Bosnian chickens came home to roost with a vengeance this week at the summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). This organization has joined the United Nations, NATO, the European Union, the Russian Federation and the United States in being stricken by the pandemic of impotence that has emerged during the Balkan conflict.

European commentators could scarcely find words strong enough within the bounds of decency to describe the fiasco, disaster, mockery or farce that was played out in Budapest, despite the presence of the presidents of the United States and Russia and the rest of the Western world's leaders. Germany's Helmut Kohl minced no words in declaring that the leaders going home without having dealt with Bosnia had created a diplomatic and moral disaster.

The emasculation of the organs of world order, especially the UN, is beginning to leave the world political situation looking like a serious accident waiting to happen. Planet Earth is becoming a very dangerous and unstable place to live. The Berlin Wall may be down, the Iron Curtain may have gone up, and the Soviet Union may be a memory. Yet Georgia's President Eduard Shevardnadze, who played a major part in ending it all, was obliged to warn the 52-nation Budapest Conference: "The Cold War is over. Beware the frightening peace."

Instead of Yugoslavia succumbing to world order, the New World Order has itself been Balkanized. Since the CSCE is the only organization (apart from the UN) that includes the US, Canada, all the European states and former communist republics, hopes for this particular summit were high. The group had enough self-confidence left to change its name from "conference" to "organization," as it will henceforth be known. The summit aimed to boost the CSCE's profile and clout, stabilizing Europe by forging stronger institutional links across the old East-West divide.

There was a minor success: The countries agreed on their first-ever peacekeeping force, to operate in the Armenian enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh - the site of the first post-Soviet conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The meeting was to sketch a framework for the CSCE to resolve conflicts in its arena before they develop into wars.

But it was obvious from the opening of the conference and President Clinton's unconvincing statement that "the world is a safer place," that the issues of conflict resolution and peacekeeping were merely skirting the rim of the political black hole called Bosnia. It wasn't long before the entire

conference fell into it. "The very idea of the common European House is nearly dead, and is being consumed by the fires of numerous conflicts and wars," said Shevardnadze.

He could have added that rather than harmony, old superpower antagonisms hung over the conference like the Spirit of Cold Wars Past. The beaming smiles of Clinton and Yeltsin over the cocktails translated only into grimaces in the conference hall. Yeltsin first berated Washington for trying to keep Russia out of NATO's cozy club while co-opting the former Soviet satellites of eastern Europe. He seemed at a loss to understand Clinton's reassurance that extending NATO to his frontier promised more security for Russia, not less. Security against whom, wondered the Russians, not unreasonably. Europe, said Yeltsin, might well be plunged into a Cold Peace.

Yeltsin then left, leaving his foreign minister, Andrei Kozyrev, to deliver the Russian bear's final blow to the gathering. In a humiliation few could have imagined beforehand, the conference closed without a single official comment on the war raging 300 km. from Budapest. Russia vetoed any statement on Europe's worst conflict since World War II because it refused to accept any criticism of the Serbs, who have conquered 70 percent of Bosnia and have flouted international peace proposals backed even by Moscow.

The CSCE was once an admired forum, which grew out of the 1975 Helsinki Conference on Human Rights and sustained dissidents in communist dictatorships as they monitored violations of its rulings. It has at last sunk to the level of other expensive hot-air generators like the Commonwealth, the Non-aligned Movement and the Organization of African Unity. And worse may yet come, as the UN shows all the signs of beginning to withdraw from Bosnia.

Ominously, the most vocal call for action in that shattered country came not from the CSCE, but from the meeting of Islamic states in Geneva, backed up by equally belligerent noises from Iran. And who will blame Bosnia's Muslims if they now turn to apparent Islamic allies when the rest of the world abandons them? It seems incredible that Europe continues to turn a blind eye to the results of Islamic fundamentalist meddling in secular Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt and the territories here.

If these sinister armies of militant Islam soon appear on the doorstep of the European Union, this week's CSCE fiasco will surely be recorded as the place where religious state terrorism was granted a visa to the continent.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DETERRENT TO TERROR

Sir, - Although in many countries such as Egypt, they execute convicted terrorists, for Israel not to adopt this policy is unwise, not because it is immoral, but because it is an ineffective deterrent to terrorist outrages. After fundamentalist Muslim terrorists and suicide squads announce as they did recently that they "love death more than Jews love life," how will executing them serve as a deterrent and warning?

The only effective means to cut down on the number of Palestinians who are tempted to join suicide terrorist squads is to let them know that, since they cannot personally be made to pay the consequences, their families will be made to pay. Not only will their homes be demolished as

punishment, but also those of their relatives. In addition, the families of the Muslim "martyr" will be held financially responsible for the loss of life and damages caused and, if feasible, the family of the dead terrorist should be shipped out of the country.

I know that this will upset the local B'Tselem, ACRI and Rabbis for Human Rights organizations, but if they have a better solution that will prevent kidnapping of Jews and bombings of buses by Muslims intent on dying together with their innocent victims, then I wish they would let all of us know. When will these groups learn that it is more moral to side with the victims of terror than with the perpetrators of terror?

Jerusalem. JOSHUA J. ADLER

FAILURE TO FIGHT BACK

Sir, - One is completely bewildered to see the Israelis' failure to fight back at the continuing barbarism they are subjected to. Their enemies make no secret of their intent, which should make every Jew wonder if he will be next.

Even today most people cannot understand how the victims of the Holocaust permitted themselves to be led like sheep to the slaughter when we know that they did not have the means to do otherwise. No such condition exists today when Jews have their own homeland, an arsenal of highly sophisticated weapons and an allegedly superior security system.

OVERDOSE OF MERCY

Sir, - Hanna Semer, in her article "Spy story" (November 25), asked for mercy for the Russian spy who is serving a 20-year sentence. Hanna Semer asserts that the convict, after only 12 years in prison, "has paid the price" for his treason. Then why was he convicted to 20 years in prison? Was the judge a mean, cruel man, out for revenge? I thought at the time that the spy was very lucky to receive a prison sentence instead of death sentence as is the custom in Russia or in

TIME FOR WAR
Sir, - The only possible chance for Israel to live a peaceful existence is outlined in Jonathan Blass's article November 29, "There is time for war." Our present "peace" will inevitably result in war, with Israel being considerably weakened first.

ZVI YISRAEL

THANKS

Sir, - Many thanks to Moshe Kohn, who writes the weekly column *View from Now*, and to *The Jerusalem Post* for publishing it. His research is superb and educational for his many readers.

JEAN WERSHOW

A QUESTION OF MORALITY

Sir, - When Dr. Baruch Goldstein killed a number of innocent Arabs at prayer, the whole Jewish world, almost without exception, recoiled in horror and remorse that a human being, a doctor, a Jew could do such a monstrous deed. In every synagogue, the sermons reflected this sense of shame. The general explanation was that, due to the trauma of seeing so many of his neighbors and friends murdered by terrorists, something must have snapped in the doctor's head.

The brutal killing of the young woman in Afula, the latest in the series of outrages, causes one to make comparisons. These carefully planned murders are carried out by members of organizations which enjoy a broad following and support. These killers are inspired and encouraged by sermons they constantly hear in their mosques. Mr. Arafat expresses half-hearted regrets when the government insists that he does so - a humiliation to me.

Although we and they have a common ancestor, due to our different histories and spiritual teachings, we have evolved to be quite a different people, and thank God for that.

WILLIAM SIMON

Tel Aviv.

BIRTH IN FLIGHT

Sir, - What is the nationality of a baby born in a civil aircraft in flight over Europe? I had that question posed to me, some 30 years ago, in my professional capacity.

The answer, of course, was complicated. It required an exact determination of the time of birth, as a matter of the legal definition of "birth," and an exact determination of the location of the plane in relation to the ground at the moment of birth, a question of fact. It then required the application of the law of the nationality of the aircraft and the law of the country over which the aircraft was at that exact moment, a curious instance of what goes under the name of "conflict of laws" or "private international law."

Not quite an everyday matter for any attorney.

The parents of and the attorneys for Matthew Dulles de Bara (*Post*, November 30) do not have that one to cope with.

SHABTAI ROSENNE



Prizes and prisoners

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

FORMER Norwegian cabinet minister Kaare Kristiansen didn't pull his punches when he quit the Nobel Peace Prize Committee in October.

He said: "How can you present Yasser Arafat, who committed atrocities against innocent women and children in cowardly terrorist attacks, a medal for peace? It's an insult to compare him with a man like Rabin, who has a proud record as a war hero in fighting for his country."

In Jerusalem this week, Prof. Kristiansen is more convinced than ever of the immorality of parading Arafat on the world stage as a man of peace, alongside Rabin. A precedent has been created, he notes, asking: "Will Saddam Hussein of Iraq be next?"

The case for denying Arafat the Nobel Peace Prize was made all the stronger, Kristiansen says, by the way the PLO leader broke his promise to reveal information about missing Israeli prisoners of war Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, captured by Syrian troops in Lebanon in 1982.

Despite persistent reports that the soldiers are alive, their families still don't know one way or the other. Says American-born Yona Baumel, father of Zachary, "Syria is responsible for our sons. We want to know whether they are dead or alive."

When Arafat produced half of Zachary's dog-tag last December, he vowed to disclose details of the men's fate within a short space of time. He never kept his word. "How can you give a peace prize to a man who does not keep his word?" asks Kristiansen.

The distinguished Norwegian isn't alone in distrusting the PLO leader. Said Rabin in Moscow last April: "Arafat has not been forthcoming, apparently fearing that it would complicate his relations with Syria."

On Saturday night, at the same time as the ceremony for Arafat, Rabin and Peres takes place in Oslo, Kristiansen will be receiving token awards in Jerusalem from the Center for Jewish Leadership and the International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers in acknowledgment of his moral stand.

When Warren Christopher accompanied President Clinton to Damascus just over a month ago, he showed Hafez Assad a full-page advertisement from *The Jerusalem Post* proclaiming that after Baumel, Feldman and Katz had been taken prisoner, American journalist Dean Brelis witnessed three Israeli soldiers being paraded on a flat truck in Damascus's Central Square.

Assad replied that he knew nothing of the matter.

The soldiers' parents are hoping that Christopher, on his current visit to the Middle East, is pressing Assad for an answer on what he knows is a matter of great concern to Israel. The secretary of state is aware that a recent Shillav poll demonstrated that 84 percent of Israelis believe Rabin should halt the release of all Palestinian prisoners until the missing soldiers are allowed to come home.

The issue of our missing men may even be a consideration in how successful the Americans are

On Saturday, the man who promised details about Israel's missing soldiers and broke his word will be receiving a peace award in Oslo

in jump-starting the peace talks between Israel and Syria. Yona Baumel asked visiting German President Roman Herzog, who has expressed sympathy with the plight of the soldiers' families, to use his influence with Assad to get some concrete information.

ALL THE PARENTS have tried ceaselessly to determine the fate of their missing sons. They have spoken personally to leading statesmen, politicians and others with contacts in the Arab world. Repeatedly, they have heard that their sons are in captivity either in Lebanon or Syria, believed to be held by Assad as human bargaining chips.

Yona Baumel told us this week: "I recently received news that one or more of our sons are being held in an area under Syrian jurisdiction by a group whose name is not known. I also spoke to Dean Brelis, now retired, who said: 'After seeing the Israeli prisoners with hands and ankles chained, I asked permission to interview them, but was refused.'"

This statement was forwarded, together with other information, to the International Red Cross, which has now asked the Syrian Government for information about the soldiers. There has been no Syrian reaction.

For the past 12 years, Baumel and family members of the other soldiers have spoken to scores of

presidents and politicians in many countries in a bid to seek help in finding their sons. Baumel has documented evidence of Mustafa Tlas, the Syrian Minister of defense, and Assad's brother, Rifaat, admitting that the POWs were in Syrian hands.

Madame Mendes-France, wife of the former French premier, has said that the French Foreign Ministry was certain the soldiers were alive.

Yona Baumel believes Israel's government hasn't pressured Arafat or the Americans dealing with Assad sufficiently to determine the fate of their sons. This suspicion was fueled by Meretz Knesset member Avram Poraz. "The idea which bothers me is that those who are operating on behalf of the MIAs are, in reality, opposing the peace process," said Poraz.

A senior government adviser on terrorism told us: "When we see Rabin overlooking Arafat's repeated refusals to live up to any of his promises just so he can keep his peace program alive, it is legitimate to believe that the same process is at work with the missing soldiers. Nothing must be done to upset Assad, not even information about the fate of our three POWs."

His comments seem to be borne out by the facts.

Rabin first promised the families that he would link any release of Palestinian security prisoners to the freeing of Israel. He went back on his word and opened the prison gates for thousands of jailed Palestinians, completely ignoring the fate of the three soldiers.

Even more to the point, despite Rabin's claim that Arafat was holding back information, Shimon Peres declared earlier this year that Arafat had no information about the missing soldiers.

Says the terrorism expert: "The bottom line is that Israel has the right to demand to know: 'Are they alive or not? If they are dead, we want their bodies. Either way we want them back. There must be no concessions to either Arafat or Assad until we have an answer.'"

It is an irony that since this year's Nobel awards were announced, 30 Jews in Israel have been killed in terrorist attacks, most of them blown up by the same TNT invented by the man in whose names the prizes are awarded.

Another irony: Peace prize winner Yasser Arafat is a man completely dominated by Hamas, to whom peace with Israel is anathema.

The writers are authors of *The Mossad: Secrets of the Israeli Secret Service and other books on the Middle East*.

Free for all

URI GORDON

ONCE, many years ago, we knew the phenomenon. Our youth movement held endless discussions about it because we were disgusted by it.

We called it Canaanism, and its supporters, Canaanites. They spoke with great enthusiasm about creating a new Israeli identity, a new nation of Israelis that would include Jews, Muslims, Christians and Druse.

In a small country overwhelmingly made up of people who had come here because of their Judaism and their Zionism, these Canaanites seemed as strange as a bunch of penguins in the middle of the Negev.

Years passed, and Yonatan Ratosh and his Canaanites were nearly forgotten - and now suddenly I see Canaanism resurfacing. The old name no longer exists; the trendy new term is "post-Zionism."

Post-Zionism, the child of Canaanism, is just as absurd

This is the essence of the new approach: We were once an oppressed people with no homeland, a nation striving for self-definition. But since then, we've achieved our independence, established a state for the Jewish people, and, in a few decades, brought in Jews from all over the world. The USSR has crumbled, the Iron Curtain has fallen, and there are no refuseniks, only those who refuse to come here.

In this new, free world, every Jew can choose between aliyah and life in the Diaspora. And by choosing not to make aliyah, the majority of Diaspora Jews have determined that Israel is no longer their state.

Similarly many Israelis, who suffered decades of war and terror while Diaspora Jews lived comfortably among the fleshpots, are giving up on partnership with Diaspora Jews, who didn't share the burden of state-building.

The conclusion of Post-Zionism: There is no longer a common thread connecting Israelis to Diaspora Jews. There are two separate "peoples," and Israeli Jews must now forge a new national identity not with Diaspora Jews, but with their Israeli compatriots - the Druse soldier and the Beduin tracker - who fought with them, shoulder to shoulder.

Though this new ideology is every bit as absurd as Canaanism, its attraction shouldn't be underestimated, since this is an era in which the values and concepts of the founding generation are being dispensed with, one after another.

The time has come, say the new Canaanites, to close the book on Zionism. But they are ignoring one crucial fact: Israel wasn't established merely to provide a homeland for the 650,000 Jews then resident in Palestine. It won international recognition because it declared itself the refuge, the national homeland, of all the Jewish people.

If Israel isn't the state of the Jews but of the Israelis, by what moral right can we prevent the descendants of the Arabs of Jaffa, Ramla and Haifa from returning to settle in the land of their forefathers? To the Canaanites, the Palestinians' right of return has greater moral value than the Jews' Law of Return.

It is true that there is a growing distance between Israel and Diaspora Jews, and I believe that responsibility for this lies mainly with the Israelis.

For decades, Israelis have wanted Diaspora Jews' earnings, but not their yearnings. We have learned to ask and to take, but we aren't ready to give anything in return.

We've built schools, community centers and universities thanks to Diaspora Jews' contributions, but we haven't told the students who study in them that the Jews of Los Angeles and the Jews of Kiryat Malachi are part of the same big family.

Like it or not, we share the same destiny. When Jews are slaughtered in Buenos Aires, we hurt in Jerusalem. The struggle to return our missing soldiers is enjoined not just by Israelis, but by Jews in New York, London and Paris.

Zionism today is in need of new spirit, new definitions, new content - and, in this image-dominated era, a bit of PR.

But anyone who proposes ditching Zionism is either naive or means to lead us astray. The result would be the ideological disintegration of the state.

The writer is head of Jewish Agency's Department of Immigration and Absorption.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT

БИБЛИОТЕКА "ДАНИЭЛЬ"
ШКОЛА ИНОСТРАННЫХ ЯЗЫКОВ
LIBRARY "DANIEL"
SCHOOL OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
ספריית "דניאל"
בית הספר לשפות זרות

This looks like the perfect place to learn English. The sign was spotted by Zeev Klein on Allenby Street in Tel Aviv.

It's high time 'Don Juan' hubby was on the level

DEAR RUTHIE
RUTHIE BLUM



Dear Ruthie, I know my husband is fooling around with other women. I knew when I married him what a "Don Juan" he was, so, even though it pains me at times, there have been no surprises. Now I fear he is having a serious affair with one woman. I can take the one-night stands, but if he is seeing someone regularly, I will be crushed. How can I find out for sure without snooping extra low as to hire an investigator? Affair Apprehensive Somewhere in Israel

Dear AA, Ask him. During your many years of marriage, you have accepted your husband's infidelity. You did not feel he could adhere to restrictions, so you imposed none. In return, he should be at least a little honest about whether your marriage is in danger.

It seems doubtful, however, that your husband will be "faithful" to one woman now, even a mistress. If he is, however, you are providing him the protection he needs from the demands of this other woman. Ask yourself whether this is a function you wish to continue serving in his life.

Dear Ruthie, I can't make up my mind about anything. It's gotten to be an almost pathological problem. It harms me and is a burden to my family. I switched my child's kindergarten three times in one school year, each time because I heard of an opening in a better school. I can't even decide on a movie to see with my husband, which annoys him so much that we end up staying home. What do you suggest? Undecided Jerusalem

Dear Undecided, Fear of making a decision is a form of insecurity. You imagine every decision you make to be a reflection of who you are. Since you have begun to sense pathology in this otherwise com-

mon problem, you should seek professional counseling. The fact that you are willing to acknowledge you have such a problem is a very good first step toward recovery. It is also marvelously decisive.

The first decision you might attempt to make swiftly could be which therapist to see. Remember: Being decisive does not mean always making the right decision. But then, poring over choices with extra care is no guarantee of success either.

Dear Ruthie, We hired a friend to do a job in our home. We felt his feelings would be hurt if we went elsewhere. He quoted a discounted price verbally at the beginning, but we signed no contract. When the work was completed, he billed us for more than his original quote. If he were a stranger, we would have had a written estimate. We also would be able to argue over our differences of opinion. But, because he is a friend, I am ill at ease about bargaining him down.

Should I overcome my uneasiness or should I pay and be done with it?

Paying for Peace of Mind? Somewhere in Israel

Dear Peace-Keeper, If you can pipe down and pay up without seething, go ahead. Remember, however, that your friend is looking out for his own interests. Look out for yours; they're just as important. If he is able to separate business from friendship, you should have no qualms about following his example.

Whatever you decide, let this episode be a learning experience for future business with pals.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem. (Ruthie regrets not being able to guarantee publication of every letter, but will answer every letter received.)

Join those smart birds who are migrating south

TRAVEL TIPS
HAIM SHAPIRO

NATOUR has a series of winter tours to warm places: a five-nighter to South Africa for \$976, including airfare, accommodation and breakfast, and a choice of packages to Mexico from \$2,090 (nine days, including airfare and accommodation).

LUFTHANSA is offering a round-trip fare to Casablanca, via Frankfurt, of \$653. The fare to Tunis is \$708.

NITZA TOURS has a four-day tour to Jordan, leaving on Thursdays. The cost, including half-board in five-star hotels, is \$359.

ARKIA is selling packages to nearby locations, including Sharm e-Sheikh, Cyprus and Antalya. Three nights in Sharm start at \$342 and a three-night visit to Paphos starts at \$289. A three-night weekend visit to Antalya sells for \$294, and a four-night midweek package starts at \$280. Packages to Cyprus and Sharm include airfare, hotel and breakfast, while those to Antalya also include half-board.

DIESENHAUS HAS four-night tours to Rome, including hotel, breakfast and airfare, at prices starting from \$459.

ARKIA HAS begun a weekly flight to Basel in a Boeing 737. The round-trip fare is \$389 for

adults, \$369 for seniors, and \$253 for children.

BUDGET IS promising to upgrade rented cars for Israelis in Europe.

RIMON TOURS has a six-night New Year's package to London from \$585. The company's regular packages to London start at \$475 for four nights and \$525 for six nights. The price includes bed and breakfast, airfare, a registration fee and airport tax.

EL AL passengers to Bombay, Bangkok, Beijing and Hong Kong can extend their trip with China Airlines' Asia Pass. The price of the pass starts at \$389 for three flights.

PASSENGERS in transit or departing from Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport can now gamble away their remaining Dutch florins. The airport has a casino which includes blackjack, roulette and one-armed bandits.

A NEW PANORAMIC point, Mitzpe Leshalom, with a view of the Jordan Valley, Lake Kinneret and Tiberias, has been opened near Kibbutz Kfar Haruv in the southern Golan Heights. Entrance is free, and among the facilities are a snack bar, toilets, and a shop selling the artworks of local artists and wines from the Golan Winery.

Tourists follow in the footsteps of Aborigines

TRAVEL
JASON SZEP

A pack of tourists follows the steps of Aborigine Robert Lerossignol through the

barren, gritty outback of central Australia that has been home to his culture for 50,000 years.

He explains the significance of rock art carved into sun-baked slabs of red stone, sifts through ancient fossils in a dried-up seabed and shows how native plants nourished a daily diet and cultivated thousand-year-old outback medicines.

This land where Lerossignol has grown up holds myths and legends which run deep in aboriginal culture, and which explain the outback's harsh, ancient terrain and vast mysteries.

But the land is also at the center of a fast-growing trend in Australian tourism - aboriginal culture treks which lead tourists through outback plains and aboriginal communities once tucked far away from white Australia.

Such tours, often fully operated by Aborigines, promise an economic lifeline for many impoverished aboriginal communities while satisfying escalating demand for more adventurous, authentic and educational travel experiences.

Lerossignol, 51, runs Oak Valley Tours, about an hour's drive south of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory.

Tourism officials say travelers are growing more aware of the historic and emotional bond between Australia and its original inhabitants and are reaching out for tourism experiences which evoke that relationship.

"There is a demand from the Western world for different cultural experiences," said Andrea Martin, Aboriginal Tourism Officer in the Northern Territory, which has Australia's largest aboriginal population.

There are now about 300,000 Aborigines, or 1.8 percent of the total population, from an estimated two million at the time of white settlement in 1788. About 25 percent of the aboriginal population lives in the Northern Territory.

"People in general are moving away from mass tourism to de-



In Australia, the boom in tours of aboriginal lands and communities reflects a growing interest in 'different' cultures, according to guides there. (Courtesy of the Australian Tourism Commission)

manding something that provides a different perspective on the world," said Martin.

The tours are as diverse as ab-

original communities themselves. Some offer day trips exploring life-style features such as hunting and food gathering techniques,

traditional songs, paintings, dance and storytelling.

Others are more intense, immersion-style trips lasting several

days, a week or even longer on aboriginal homelands.

"There is a very real desire in Australia to get know something of the culture of traditional people and people who are still living on the land," said Diane James, a white Australian who began Desert Tracks, an aboriginal tour company, in 1988.

James said international and Australian tourism numbers have risen sharply in the past two years at Desert Tracks, which she describes as "life-style tours" consisting of three or four days camping with Aborigines and becoming immersed in their culture.

Desert Tracks is now wholly owned by Aborigines who run tours on a trial basis before becoming shareholders in the company, which is based near Uluru - the aboriginal name for the red monolith once officially known as Ayers Rock.

"It's providing employment and a feasible business that uses as its base traditional knowledge rather than people having to be trained in a whole lot of other skills," says James, 40, who speaks two of the local aboriginal languages.

The tours also reflect a curiosity for a culture that has been marginalized and discriminated against from the time British ships first arrived here in the 18th century. Uluru, which reverted from Ayers Rock to its traditional name after being handed back to the Anangu community in 1985, is a focus for aboriginal creation stories and a magnet for tourists.

The Northern Territory returned large swaths of land back to traditional aboriginal communities and families under federal land rights legislation in 1976, leading to a steady revival of traditional aboriginal life-style in some parts of the Territory.

Although many have taken on features of modern Western society such as television, Aborigines hold firmly to their traditions, stories and historic life-style.

"Controlled access to aboriginal land could improve the lot of many Aborigines living on large tracts of country as well as benefiting the wide tourism industry and the Territory community," the Northern Territory Tourism Commission said in a recent report. (Reuter)

A Dostoevskyan novel - about Dostoevsky

BOOKS
RICHARD EDER

THE MASTER OF PETERSBURG by J.M. Coetzee. Viking. \$21.95. 250 pp.

A noted 19th century Russian writer, living abroad, returns to Petersburg when he receives word of the mysterious death of his stepson, Pavel. Grief-stricken, he goes through the young man's trunk, inhaling the odor from his clothes as if to take possession of his ghost.

He whispers "Pavel" repeatedly to himself. He thinks of an Orpheus who walks backward "step by step, whispering the dead woman's name, coaxing her out of the entrails of hell; of the wife in graveclothes with the blind, dead eyes, following him, holding out limp hands before her like a sleepwalker."

So, with misleading tenderness, begins *The Master of Petersburg*. J.M. Coetzee's harsh, cerebral, provocative novel about the savage mechanism of artistic creation. He conceives it as a Darwinian process, a life that crowds out life, a struggle in which a brilliantly specialized organism feeds on its host and destroys it.

Feeding on the memory of Pavel, the father metamorphoses into the writer. Leaching his love is an undercurrent of generational suspicion and resentment. Grieving and guilt-stricken, he is also a child-devouring Saturn. For a while it seems that he will turn Pavel - who had quarreled, left home and joined a circle of nihilist conspirators in Petersburg - into the character of Stavrogin.

The father, of course, is Dostoevsky, Coetzee's Master of Petersburg. (Stavrogin is the possessed or be-demoned protagonist

of the novel that is variously translated as *The Possessed* and *The Demons*.) Coetzee has audaciously taken facts from Dostoevsky's life and imagined the transformation by which a father, monstrously, becomes the artist who "masters" these facts by reinventing them. It is an operation of love, hatred and art, inextricably mingled.

The book is knotty and sometimes punishingly abstract - it is an idea more than a novel - but at its most powerful the idea burns and terrifies. There are moments when, as in some Pirandello-like variation on Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, we see the features of a man liquefying into the lineaments of fiction.

Coetzee writes about the tormented Dostoevsky as someone himself possessed by demons, and pulled about in emotional and intellectual spasms (a mimicry of the epileptic seizures that the writer in fact endured). Dostoevsky's fiction, his life, and Coetzee's fiction about the life and the fiction: all three are intricately, elegantly and coldly intertwined.

The protagonist shows traces of Raskolnikov in *Crime and Punishment*, of Ivan Karamazov, and even of the epileptic Prince Myshkin in *The Idiot*. He is saintly and corrupt. He lodges with Anna, Pavel's landlady; a type of a Dostoevskyan fallen and redeeming woman. They make passionate love alternating, on her part, with horror, and on his, with a vision of salvation. There is Anna's innocent yet preternaturally knowing daughter, whom Coetzee's Dostoevsky has nightmares of corrupting. There is a Buddha-like and unstoppable police investigator, a second Inspector Porfiry.

There is Nechaev, the real-life nihilist conspirator - possibly, in real life, a police agent as well - on whom the character of Verhovensky in *The Possessed* is based.

Hadassah-Israel presents this cookbook whose recipes represent the cultural diversity of Israel and the Hadassah chapters in Israel. Over 300 pages of delicious recipes covering the entire culinary experience...from appetizers to desserts. Each section divider also contains a slip pocket enabling you to enclose new recipes as you acquire them. Includes an appendix with cooking conversions, charts, tips and Index. Published by Hadassah Israel. Printed at the Hadassah College of Technology. Softcover, spiral-bound.

JF Price: NIS45.00, Inc. VAT. packing and postage. (For a gift overseas, please add NIS 14.00 for air mail postage).

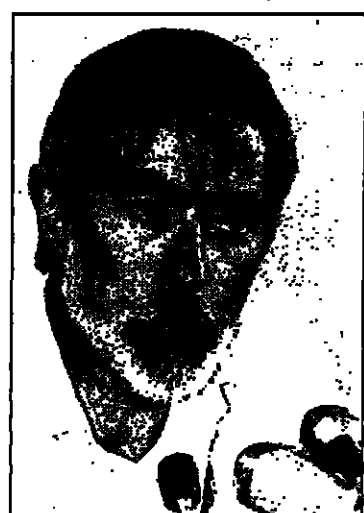
To Books: The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. Tel. 02-241282. Please send me Hadassah-Israel Cooks. Enclosed is my check for NIS 45.00 payable to The Jerusalem Post. Credit card orders accepted by phone.

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Coetzee: The artist is an organism that feeds on its host and destroys it. (Herald)

Coetzee's Nechaev, who draws Pavel into his clandestine net just as Verhovensky drew Stavrogin, is Dostoevsky's arch-antagonist. They hold a nightlong disputation that suggests the Grand Inquisitor scene in *The Brothers Karamazov*.

Here, though, each man slips back and forth between the roles of Inquisitor and Christ, with Dostoevsky getting the last turn at Christ and a chance to plant a damp kiss on Inquisitor Nechaev's pimply visage. He does not, however, reduce him to silence; quite the opposite.

In *The Possessed*, the Nechaev character is the demon of nihilistic violence that fatally corrupts the malleable Stavrogin.

Master takes the villain of Dostoevsky the writer, and turns him into the scourge of Dostoevsky the character. A villain still, he gets to answer back.

Nechaev assails his interlocutor for turning his wretched and abused characters into saintly and spiritual beings. As such, they threaten no one; certainly not the

ruling classes. In fact, he argues, the earth's wretched harbor a prodigious violence. The nihilists, with their program of assassination and bombings, will liberate this violence and ultimately establish a reign of peace and justice.

Dostoevsky had accused the Nechaevists of lacking the idealism of earlier conspirators - he himself was one and went to Siberia for it - and of standing for blood lust and resentment.

In fact, toward the end of their disputation, Nechaev is babbling happily about God and his angels dancing together in melodious equality.

With each of its ironic notes reverberating, *Master* moves sinuously and to uncanny effect between the fiction of a character and the fiction of a fiction. Dostoevsky's grief is no less authentic for its parodic theatricality. Sitting at table with Anna and her daughter, his silent tears are punctuated by an occasional brief howl. He visits Pavel's grave with them, takes them on an excursion to the country, links Anna's arm in his own and dreams of starting a new family with her (though he has a wife in Dresden).

It is a lovely moment and it does not undermine itself; what does undermine, deliberately, is the cutting away of such moments into scenes of a drastically different texture.

Suddenly, he and the somber Anna are rolling on his bed and tearing lustfully at each other. The next moment she pulls away, ac-

cusing him of using her to seduce her daughter. The moment after, she is back for more tearing. Bit by bit we sense that we are not in a story but in a succession of story drafts; as if Dostoevsky had imperceptibly changed from the tormented character to the writer who paces the room, acting his pages out and experimenting with changes.

We see him, for example, distilling his resentment of his stepson's subservience to Nechaev into the intention to write him as the corrupted Stavrogin. In fact - though we have to read *The Possessed* to realize it - he relents and turns Pavel into the more winning character of Shatov, who succumbs momentarily to Verhovensky/Nechaev but dies rebelling against him.

In design, *The Master of Petersburg* is a provocative and ironic exploration of the relation of art and life. In substance, and in many ingenious ways, it is an attempt to write a Dostoevskyan novel about Dostoevsky writing a novel. The design is a tour de force and dryly successful. The substance is engrossing but it falls short.

Even though Coetzee is a master himself, he cannot produce the essential element in recreating the master of Petersburg. Any of Dostoevsky's characters, after only a few pages, makes the heart freeze and the eyes weep. Coetzee achieves a measure of freezing; the eyes stay quite dry.

(Los Angeles Times)

Good 'n' Simple



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HEALTH AND BEAUTY SUPPLEMENT

On December 16, The Jerusalem Post will be publishing a special supplement on Alternative Medicine and Natural Beauty Cosmetology.

Companies or individuals who wish to advertise in the supplement should contact Smadar Ratinsky.

Tel. 03-6390333, Fax. 03-6390277.



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JF Price: NIS45.00, Inc. VAT. packing and postage. (For a gift overseas, please add NIS 14.00 for air mail postage).

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1994

Balance of payments
deficit shoots up 66%

THE country's balance of payments deficit shot up 66 percent in the first three quarters of the year to a record \$3.462 billion, as the trade balance worsened and unilateral transfers fell, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The balance of payments, or current account, includes the balance of trade and of financial transfers.

The trade deficit jumped 20.6% to \$7.345b, as imports rose 10.4% to \$24.781b, and exports increased a more moderate 6.6% to \$17.435b.

Bank of Israel director of research Leora Meridor said the current account figures were "a lot less awful than we had previously thought."

The revised second quarter figures show a smaller balance of payments deficit, reflecting a brighter economic picture, she added.

Meridor, however, noted that the significant worsening of the balance of payments was mostly attributable to the large jump in consumption.

This caused the central bank to raise interest rates to cool down consumer demand, which cannot produce the return necessary to repay the accumulating debt.

The Bank of Israel's tight monetary policy has already had an impact in the third quarter tourism expenditures abroad, which con-

JOSE ROSENFELD

tracted from the record levels in the second quarter, Meridor said.

She also pointed out that the transfer of \$1.2b. in economic aid from the US in October will help cut the current account deficit from its third quarter high.

The country's net foreign debt increased to \$17.7b. compared to \$16.7b. at the end of September 1993.

Although defense imports fell from \$1.615b. during the first nine months of last year to \$1.079 for the same period this year, civilian imports more than made up for the drop by rising \$1.838b.

Service imports increased \$1.028b., with about half that amount accounting for local residents' travel expenses abroad.

Foreign direct investment increased 11.2% to \$338 million, while Israel's investments abroad dropped 6.6% to \$457m.

Unilateral transfers decreased 3% to \$3.883b. Foreign aid fell 27% to \$1.055b., reflecting the drop in defense imports, which are paid from US security assistance.

German reparations payments were slightly up to \$541m.

Transfers to individuals rose to \$1.547b. from \$1.281b., while donations to non-profit organizations dropped to \$740m. from \$760m. in the first nine months last year.

During the first nine months of



Meridor: Figures were 'a lot less awful than we had previously thought.' (Tav Or)

the year, the country expanded its borrowing abroad by \$2.9b. compared with \$2b. in the same period last year.

The government borrowed the lion's share, or \$1.5b., the banks \$800m. and the business sector \$600m. As the country's debt grew, its assets increased by \$800m.

Offer-Wertheim's purchase of 26%
stake in Bank Mizrahi approved

EVELYN GORDON

THE Knesset Finance Committee yesterday unanimously approved the sale of 26 percent of Bank Mizrahi to the Offer-Wertheim group, after rejecting appeals from Mizrahi workers to pressure the government into meeting their demands.

The Mizrahi workers had been hopeful of support, following the committee's recent successful pressure on the government to make concessions to Shekem employees.

However, many MKs seemed annoyed with the Mizrahi workers' demands and eager to quench any idea that their treatment of

Shekem should be seen as a precedent.

"The Finance Committee does not deal with labor-management relations - period," snapped committee chairman Gedalya Gal (Labor) after the meeting.

The committee did insist that the government offer workers 10% of the bank's total shares at a discount, as had been done for Hapoalim and Leumi employees, and the government agreed to this.

However, it declined to get involved in the workers' other demands - that 2%-3% of the pro-

ceeds of the sale be deposited in their compensation fund, which is some NIS15m. short; that the generous retirement packages offered to senior bank officials be canceled; and that numerous questions regarding compensation for workers who might be fired be resolved.

Ariel Weinstein (Likud) called on the Treasury to negotiate a general agreement with the Histadrut on the rights of workers in privatized companies, so the committee would not be subjected to worker pressure every time a firm is sold.

"A value is set for every component of a government company - the capital, the reputation, the equipment and the land," he said. "Only for the workers has a price not been set. We are beginning to return to the days of special allocations, when the strong get and the weak are deprived."

Offer-Wertheim will pay the government \$110 million for its stake.

It has also acquired an option to buy an additional 25% for \$105.7m. within 13 months of its final payment on the first portion, which must be within two months of signing the contract.

Banks lower risk factor
in loans to contractors

EVELYN GORDON

BANKS have lowered their risk factor in loans to contractors, for fear of a housing glut soon, Housing Ministry director-general Arye Mizrahi told the Knesset State Control Committee yesterday.

Mizrahi said the banks have reduced the amount of money they are willing to lend small and medium-sized contractors from 80 percent to 70% of the project's cost.

This signifies, he said, that the banks see a greater risk in lending money for housing projects -

which in turn implies that the banks foresee a possibility that housing prices will decline.

Mizrahi's remarks came during a committee discussion of the state comptroller's report on housing assistance to the needy.

The comptroller found that the ministry's budget for this purpose was not fully utilized, that the data on the number of requests for assistance was incomplete, and the criteria for receiving assistance had not been made public.

Net earnings after tax at
public companies fall 39.2%

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

PUBLIC companies' net earnings after tax fell 39.2 percent on average in the first nine months of the year from the same period last year, according to an United Mizrahi Bank survey.

The study, which was released yesterday, tracks the performance of the 362 companies traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Mizrahi's research department blamed the drop in profits on a 67% increase in financing expenses, losses from investments in securities, and high interest payments compared with the first nine months last year.

The survey did not look at the performance of financial institutions, insurance companies, banks

and oil firms.

In the first three quarters of this year, 29% of the companies surveyed reported a worsening in net profits and 64% reported an increase in sales.

Total accumulated sales rose 12.2% in the first nine months last year. This increase reflected a continuation of the economic growth rate.

The hotel and tourism services sectors' performance stood out with a 47.6% rise in accumulated net profits, reflecting the rise in tourists from the same period last year.

In the first nine months of the

year, accumulated sales grew 20.7%, while operating profits increased 32.6%.

The food and tobacco sector improved in gross and operating profits, but accumulated net profits fell 6.7% - mainly as a result of a 92% increase in financing expenses.

The computer sector stood out with a 91.3% accumulated drop in net profits, followed by the building products sector, with an 87.5% fall.

In the first nine months of the year, real estate companies suffered a 78.4% accumulated drop in net profits, while investment and holding companies suffered a 65.4% fall.

British gov't raises
rates after tax defeat

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain's government, struggling to repair damage inflicted by a stinging parliamentary defeat that punched a big hole in its budget, raised interest rates yesterday in a move to steady the shaky pound.

The Bank of England announced it was raising rates by half a percentage point to 6.25 percent.

Prime Minister John Major now faces a huge task to shore up his weakening grip on his Conservative Party, humiliated by Tuesday night's defeat in which 15 legislators deserted their government.

They torpedoed plans to double value-added tax (VAT) on home heating fuel, forcing Finance Minister Kenneth Clarke to scramble to repair his budget.

Financial markets had been expecting a rate rise to rein in economic growth, which has threatened to set off renewed inflation, but were surprised by the speed of the move following Tuesday's vote.

Commercial banks followed suit by raising their base lending rates, but some leading mortgage lenders said they would not be passing on the increase.

Shares and bonds rose as dealers approved of Clarke's firm smack of leadership.

The defeat has raised doubts about Major's ability to soldier on at the head of a divided and demoralized party until the next general election, which must be held by mid-1997.

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Tefen wins contract to analyze
software for capital gains tax

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TEFEN Design Development & Analysis of Production Systems, a Tadiran subsidiary, was awarded the commercial banks' contract to do a systems analysis for the software needed to collect capital gains taxes at the source.

Tefen participated in the tender against MLL software and FMR Computer and Software.

While the capital gains law will become effective on January 1, the system will only be operational several months later.

Tefen has 12 weeks to analyze the software system, after which the commercial banks will hold two more tenders - one to decide on a firm to develop the system and another to operate it.

The development stage is expected to take about three months.

"Tefen won the first stage in the

three-stage process to establish the computer system," a spokesman said. "It is the most important stage. The company will have to decide what is needed, including equipment and computer memory. Once Tefen completes its analysis, the three software companies will compete for receivership of the contract to develop the system."

According to the spokesman, Tefen may decide to develop more than one computer system, since not all the banks' systems communicate with IBM. Bank Discount, for example, uses the Unix system.

Since the banks will not be ready to collect the tax at the start of the year, they will collect it retroactively once the system is operational. The spokesman said Tefen will have to devise a file system to help banks keep a record of transactions until the system is operational.

The government has agreed to pay the start-up costs of writing the software for the banks to collect taxes. The banks will bear the ongoing costs.

Freddy Vidder, Association of Banks in Israel director-general, projects that collecting the tax will cost between NIS 40m. and NIS 100m. a year.

תאגיד תיכנות
מטרה
מטרה
מטרה

Date: 6.12.94

Purchase Price: 132.30

Redemption Price: 130.17

למכירת פניא למכירת פניא

פריים
מטרה
מטרה
מטרה

Date: 6.12.94

Purchase Price: 95.94

Redemption Price: 94.51

למכירת פניא למכירת פניא

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ECI Telecom
falls 7% on
Wall Street

RACHEL NEIMAN

ECI Telecom shares continued to slide on Wall Street yesterday, dropping seven percent after a 17% dive the day before.

The plunge followed announcements of lowered 1995 earnings estimates for the company by brokerage houses Alex Brown and Furman Selz to \$1.15 from \$1.25.

Alex Brown changed its recommendation on the stock to Buy from strong buy.

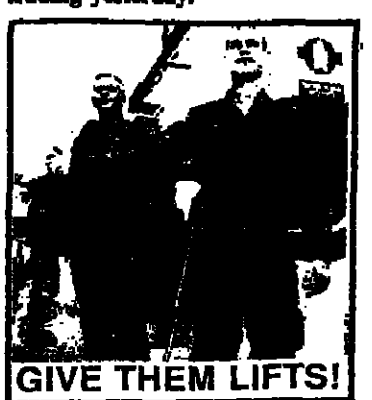
Daniel Chertoff of Furman Selz said his firm reduced estimates due to increased competition in the areas of access products (local loop) and synchronous digital hierarchy (SDH).

In addition, Chertoff said Israel's inflation is likely to remain high next year, with devaluation significantly less than inflation.

"ECI is impacted by this," he said. "We think ECI is an excellent company, but we feel it's appropriate to reduce expectations. At \$14, it presents an excellent buying opportunity."

Still, analyst Oded Gal of Oscar Gruss said "this sharp drop is somewhat surprising, as these opinions were not unknown. All other market analysts revised their estimates two months ago."

Cial Electronics, which owns a big stake in ECI, fell 7% in TASE trading yesterday.



GIVE THEM LIFTS!

WORLD BRIEFS

Oil prices slide as gasoline falls on bearish stock data: International crude oil prices came crashing down yesterday in reaction to overnight US stock data, which showed a large increase in gasoline inventories. World benchmark Brent Blend crude for January delivery lost more than 40 cents in early afternoon business before recovering slightly to stand around \$15.90 a barrel, 26 cents below Tuesday's close, on London's International Petroleum Exchange. *Reuters*

Deutsche Bank profit hit by bond losses: Deutsche Bank AG, Germany's largest commercial bank, yesterday announced a sharp drop in earnings in the first 10 months of the year after suffering losses in bond trading activities. *Reuters*

Group operating profit, after the bank had made provisions for bad debts, fell 15.2 percent to DM 3.57 billion from DM 4.21b. in the same period in 1993. *Reuters*

Bass profits take a holiday lift from hotels: Bass PLC, Britain's biggest brewer and the world's largest hotelier, reported annual profits up 8.7 percent yesterday driven by a strong upturn in its global chain of Holiday Inn hotels. *Reuters*

Group pretax profits for the year to September 30 rose to £552 million from £508m. on a turnover of £4.45 billion. *Reuters*

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (7.12.94)
Currency (deposit for) 3 MONTHS 6 MONTHS 12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000) 5.825 6.125 6.750
Euro (€200,000) 4.750 5.375 5.125
German mark (DM 200,000) 4.375 4.375 4.750
Swiss franc (SF 200,000) 3.125 3.375 3.750
Yen (¥10 million year) 0.750 0.675 1.125

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES (7.12.94)		BANKNOTES		Rep.	
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	Rep.
U.S. dollar	2.3230	2.3700	2.32	2.37	2.3484
German mark	1.9075	1.9544	1.97	1.98	1.9220
French franc	4.8224	4.7484	4.58	4.60	4.7191
Japanese yen (100)	0.5522	0.5530	0.54	0.57	0.5533
Dutch guilder	2.8221	2.8242	2.82	2.87	2.8171
Swiss franc	1.7013	1.7222	1.67	1.75	1.6711
Swedish krona	2.2285	2.2283	2.21	2.22	2.2745
Swedish krona	0.3278	0.3284	0.32	0.31	0.4408
Norwegian krone	0.4577	0.4438	0.45	0.45	0.4408
Danish krone	0.4872	0.4941	0.48	0.50	0.4808
British pound	0.6158	0.6245	0.60	0.63	0.6191
Canadian dollar	2.1707	2.2213	2.15	2.22	2.1501
Australian dollar	2.3048	2.3571	2.25	2.37	2.3203
S. African rand	0.8415	0.8534	0.74	0.86	0.8478
Belgian franc (10)	0.9277	0.9408	0.91	0.95	0.9247
Austrian schilling (10)	2.7165	2.7547	2.68	2.78	2.7308
Italian lire (1000)	1.8474	1.8734	1.80	1.91	1.8508
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.15	4.41	4.2821
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.95	0.91	0.9789
ECU	3.0347	3.0850	—	—	3.0227
Irish punt	4.9523	4.8485	4.47	4.75	4.8230
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2702	2.3053	2.21	2.36	2.2318

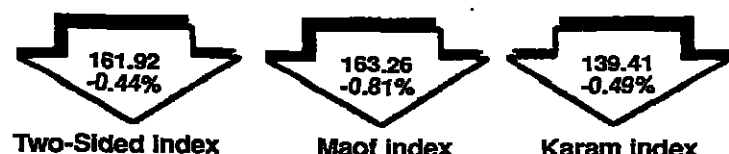
* These rates vary according to bank. *Source: Bank Leumi*

מכירת האוכל

All indexes decline in light trading

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ANDRE LUMBROSIO



THE Two-Sided Index declined 0.4 percent, the Maof 0.8%, and the Karam Index 0.5% in light trading yesterday.

Turnover was NIS 116.7 million, of which the Karam contributed NIS 28.7m. Note that the Karam Index is now below the 140 mark.

The same traditional factors which explained the declines of the previous weeks were also at work in yesterday's trading - redemptions of mutual fund certificates estimated at NIS 40-50m, general indifference on the part of the general public, and no particular activity on the part of the institutions.

The Maof arbitrageurs were active during the day. By mid-trading, the Two-Sided Index was posting a 0.9% drop and the Maof was down 1.03%.

The Maof arbitrageurs started injecting buying orders, and the mood improved accordingly, up to the point where the indexes posted rises for a short time. The market started weakening again to close as it did.

A 0.8% decline in the Maof Index parallel to a 0.4% decline in the Two-Sided Index indicates that most of the fall in the Two Sided can be traced to declines in the 25 Maof shares.

The fact that there were more securities which rose in price than declined (44 to 36) tends to reinforce that impression. The declines in the Maof shares were, however, strongly influenced by declines in two shares - Teva and Clal Electronics.

Bezek rose 1%, First International Bank 1 and 5 went up 1% and 1.5% respectively, Discount Investments went down 1%, Koor fell 1.5%, Clal Industries fell

1.8%, and Israel Chemicals dropped 0.4%.

Teva dropped 4.3% and Clal Electronics went down 7%, the result of sharp declines in New York. Teva fell 4.6% on the OTC market.

The news of the day, however, was a 17.6% decline in the price of ECI shares, a subsidiary of Clal Electronics on a turnover of \$62m, which is more than the entire turnover on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.

Two Investment Banks lowered their estimates of the fourth quarter earnings for ECI. Alex Brown and Forman Selz published, as trading opened in New York, identical estimates of fourth quarter earnings - \$0.27 EPS, down from the original estimate of \$0.29.

Alex Brown downgraded its recommendation from strong buy to buy, which was enough to do it. Note that Oscar Gruss had already downgraded a few months ago its estimate for ECI earnings.

There was unusual activity around shares of Azorim, which ended up being the most heavily traded share on the TASE. Its turnover was NIS 6.4m, while the share rose 2%. Betucha, which is also part of the Clal group, was an active purchaser of the security.

The speculators returned to what are considered the speculative securities on the Two-Sided market - Meir Ezra was up 7.3%, Isramco rose 8.6% (to 7.6 agorot), T-Bone Veal rose 9.9%, and Magen 5 dropped 5%.

The Lapidot issue (both an issue and a sale of existing shares owned by the government) was successful, with a mild oversubscription of 13%. The issue was closed at the minimum price.

FTSE falls 3 points after early rises

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - UK shares ended a volatile session slightly lower after a near 20-point advance was eroded by a weaker Wall Street and continued worries about the stability of the ruling Conservative government.

The FTSE 100, which traded as high as 3,034.7 during the morning session, ended the day down 3.6 points at 3,012.5.

FRANKFURT - German shares closed trading higher on short covering. No clear direction was seen.

The 30-share DAX Index closed up 8.72 points, or 0.43 percent, at 2,055.60. In post-bourse trading it stood at 2,044.04.

PARIS - French shares ended mixed after shedding most of their early gains in a roller-coaster session that tracked the London equities market's moves.

A trader attributed the market's late afternoon pullback to the CAC-40 index from a high of 1,989.62 to adjustments in positions related to seasonal window-dressing.

The index closed up 0.89, or 0.05%, at 1,969.84.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended a quiet day slightly mixed to easier. Dealers said Wall Street's lower opening brought prices down late in the session.

The Broad SPI down 2.30 points at 1,699.43.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks ended lower in dull trade. Many investors stayed on the sidelines in the absence of fresh incentives.

The 225-share Nikkei average closed down 166.24 points, or 0.86%, at 19,174.23.

HONG KONG - Hong Kong shares slipped lower, as investors stayed out of the market awaiting further direction from London and Wall Street.

The blue chip Hang Seng Index ended down 64.15 points, or 0.77%, at 8,268.50.

SYDNEY - The Australian share market ended weaker on thin volume after the Reserve Bank failed to unveil a widely-expected rise in official short-term interest rates before the start of trading.

The All Ordinaries Index ended 21.9 points, or 1.16% down, at 1,869.2.

JOHANNESBURG - South African gold shares posted strong gains in a bounce from recent lows amid good interest and on a steady gold price above \$377 an ounce.

Other stocks were steady, but industrial shares were waiting for Wall Street for direction.

The Overall Index was 49.8 points better at 5,771.9, Industrial Index was up 6.4 at 6,922.9, and Gold Index was 90.9 better at 1,973.

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks turned lower in sympathy with bonds and the dollar yesterday as investors worried about higher interest rates and the potential effects on the financial markets of a bankruptcy filing by Orange County, California.

The 30-year US Treasury bond was down nearly \$5 per \$1,000 face value and yielding 7.89 percent. The dollar was weaker against the mark and yen.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 10.43 to 3,735.52.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES				
MARK	STERLING	YEN	SFR	FFf
STERLING	2.4547/57	165.42/54	0.8455/58	3.4546/50
YEN	1.6882/86	0.8387/89	1.3282/74	5.3882/18
SFR	1.1821/28	0.4814/18	75.34/38	—
FFf	0.2591/13	0.1198/08	18.83/08	0.3441/09

Key Representative Rates	
US dollar ...NIS 3.0120	-0.20%
Sterling ...NIS 4.7191	+0.32%
Mark ...NIS 1.9221	+0.09%

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

New York market indexes	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Unchanged Advances Declines	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Other stock market indexes	
FTSE 100	3,012.5
DAX	2,055.60
HANG SENG	8,268.50

Israeli stocks in NY	
NYSE / AMEX	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

NASDAQ / over-the-counter	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

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NASDAQ / over-the-counter	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Multi-sided trading	
Commercial Banks	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Two-sided trading	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

PARALLEL LIST	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Property, Building & Agriculture	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Trade & Services	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Industries	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Investment Companies	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

Oil Exploration	
NYSE	11,157.74
AMEX	3,571.16
NASDAQ	1,151.74

NASDAQ / over-the-counter	
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Italian jinx too much for Hap Eilat in Korac loss

YOSI SA'AR

Hapoel Eilat honored the Israeli basketball tradition of losing in Italy, as Stefanel Milano treated 2,000 fans to an 80-71 Korac Cup victory.

The two teams now have identical 1-2 records in their division, halfway through the round of six games. The top two teams advance to the quarter-finals and at this stage, it's a wide open scramble.

Eilat was down by 11 points at the half, but found a spark late in the game. At one point in the closing minutes the southerners inched to within five points of the Italians but, as coach Yisrael Lev lamented afterward, the improvement of the second half was not enough to make up for the poor first half.

Eilat's scoring was evenly spread out as Brian Lawson netted 15, Nir Matalon and Ori Lahav each had 11, and Ari Rosenberg chipped in with 10.

Milano played determined not to let Eilat make a close game of it. Stefanel had had more than enough of that, losing its first game by only three points, and its second by one, in overtime.

Eilat's next challenge is against Peristeri of Greece.

Grudge match for Curcic as Mac TA faces Ljubljana

JOEL GORDIN

MACCABI Tel Aviv continues its uphill struggle in basketball's European Club Championships, squaring off tonight at Yad Eliyahu to the Slovenians, Olimpija Ljubljana.

After two home and two road games, Maccabi is 1-3, having lost to PAOK Saloniki (home), Panathinaikos (away) and Scavolini Pesaro (away). The sole win was against Real Madrid at home.

If Maccabi wants to retain any vestige of hope of making the semifinals, it cannot afford another home loss. The Slovenians, current holders of the European Cup, are not an easy nut to crack; they beat PAOK Saloniki 87-81 last week.

The team's success is based on two excellent sharpshooters, Dusan Hauptman and Roman Horvat. The team also has two good foreign players, Vlatko Stojanovic (2:13m.) from the Russian national team and American Antony Ried, a power forward who has played in Europe for many years, including a couple of seasons at Croatia's Split.

Still, the Maccabi players must be cheered by their convincing victory Monday in the league over Maccabi Rishon LeZion. They have the benefit of the home crowd and a win is not out of their reach, especially if Norris Coleman continues the form he showed on Monday.

Two reserve players, Yisrael Elimelech and Terry Fair, were injured on Monday, but should be fit for tonight.

This will be Maccabi's first game this season without the help of professional manager Ralph Klein, who has left to coach at Hapoel Holon. The game will have special meaning for Maccabi's Yugoslav Radislav Curcic, who once played for Ljubljana.

Play will be shown live on ITV's Channel 1 starting at 20:30.

Els named golf's Rookie of the Year

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (Reuters) - South African Ernie Els, who won a three-way, 18-hole playoff to capture the 1994 US Open, has been named PGA Tour Rookie of the Year.

Els, 25, became the first rookie to win the US Open since Jerry Pate in 1976 when he beat Loren Roberts and Colin Montgomerie in a Monday playoff to claim his first major title.

Els recorded three additional top-10 finishes, including a tie for eighth at the Masters and runner-up at the Buick Classic.

Els finished his first season on the tour with a rookie earnings record of \$684,440.

Maradona quits as coach

BUENOS AIRES (AP) - Diego Maradona, his team in danger of being relegated, resigned Tuesday as coach of the Argentinean soccer club Deportivo Mandiyu, citing problems with the team president.

Maradona said president Roberto Cruz came to the dressing room after Saturday's game and "said things he should not have said." He did not elaborate.

Mandiyu is 1-5-5 since Maradona became coach September 9.



IN YER FACE - Cleveland forward Danny Ferry tries an unorthodox way of stopping Orlando's Anfernee Hardaway on Tuesday. (AP)

Knicks stick it to Celtics - again

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Knicks beat rival Boston Tuesday night for the eighth straight time, shutting down the Celtics in the second half for a 104-90 win.

New York led by as many as 20 points early in the final period. Boston, which dropped its third straight, made only 12 of 36 shots after halftime.

Dino Radja had 23 points - 13 in the first half - to lead Boston, which was outrebounded 54-28. Dominique Wilkins added 20. Charles Smith had 20 and Anthony Mason 14 for New York.

Magic 114, Cavaliers 97

Anfernee Hardaway scored 10 points and Shaquille O'Neal had nine during Orlando's 42-point first quarter.

O'Neal and Nick Anderson finished with 26 points each - both on 11-for-14 shooting - and Hardaway had 20 for Orlando, which has won nine of its last 10 games.

The Cavs played shorthanded because power forward Tyrone Hill had the flu. Center John Williams played despite a sore hamstring that forced him to miss the previous game. Williams and Terrell Brandon scored 14 points each and Mark Price had 13 for Cleveland.

The game was postponed after a 90-minute delay because of moisture on the court at the USAir Arena. The wetness was caused by the humidity outside combined with the new ice surface installed underneath the court for a figure skating show.

Pacers 94, Pistons 83

Dale Davis had 19 points and 11 rebounds and Reggie Miller made a key 3-pointer to stop a late rally by the visitors.

The Pacers led by 13 with 5:30 remaining, but Detroit used a 12-2 run to pull within one on a 3-pointer by Terry Mills with 1:47 remaining. Mills scored 11 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter, going 3-for-3 from 3-point range.

Mills missed an open jumper from the top of the key with 45 seconds remaining, and Miller, who scored 18 points, nailed a 3-pointer with 22 seconds remaining to seal Indiana's victory.

Nuggets 102, Timberwolves 95

Dale Ellis scored 14 of his 18 points in the second half and rookie Jalen Rose started a fourth-quarter rally to lead Denver.

Rose scored six straight points - his first points of the game - to turn a one-point deficit into an 88-83 lead with 6:08 to play. A 10-1 spurt capped by Ellis' basket jumper sent the Timberwolves to their 12th straight home loss.

Brian Williams had 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Nuggets. Doug West led the Wolves with 25 points and Isiah Rider had 23.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division

Houston 11 5 .588

Denver 9 9 .500

Utah 9 10 .476

San Antonio 8 6 .571

Minnesota 7 7 .500

Mavericks 124, Spurs 121 (OT)

Jamal Mashburn scored 34 points, Jimmy Jackson added 28 and Roy Tarpley had season-highs in points and rebounds to lead Dallas on the road.

Jackson's finger-roll with 37 seconds left in overtime gave the Mavericks the lead for good as they snapped a two-game losing streak and stayed ahead of the fifth-place Spurs in the Midwest Conference.

David Robinson matched his season-high with 42 points, but he fouled out with 54 seconds left in overtime on an offensive foul. Vinny Del Negro scored a season-high 25 and Avery Johnson had 22 points and 16 assists.

Tarpley had 22 points and 14 rebounds for the Mavs, whose bench players outscored San Antonio's 35-0.

Lakers 113, Warriors 101

Inglewood, Cedric Ceballos had 28 points and 12 rebounds and Los Angeles made a franchise-record 13 rebounds. The Lakers used a 61-42 rebounding edge to beat the Warriors for the first time since April 1993.

Tim Hardaway scored 23 points for the Warriors, who have lost seven of their last eight.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

Orlando 12 3 .800

New York 10 5 .667

Philadelphia 9 7 .563

Washington 8 8 .500

New Jersey 7 9 .438

Miami 4 9 .308

Central Division

Indiana 10 5 .667

Charlotte 9 7 .563

Cleveland 8 8 .500

Chicago 8 8 .500

Detroit 7 9 .438

Atlanta 6 11 .348

MINNESOTA 7 9 .438

MINNESOTA 7 9 .438

MINNESOTA 7 9 .438

Barcelona, Goteborg advance

Manchester United wins, but fails to qualify

BARCELONA (AP) - Jose Maria Bakero scored on a header in the 82nd minute to help Barcelona to a 1-1 draw yesterday with IFK Goteborg, allowing the four-time Spanish league champions to advance with the Swedish side to the quarter-finals of the European Champions League.

Barcelona needed at least a draw to advance. Goteborg finished first in Group A and was already assured of moving on.

Bakero scored on a sharp-angle from eight meters that sailed over the head of Goteborg goalie Thomas Ravelli and into the far corner of the net.

Goteborg's Stefan Rehn scored a meaningless goal in the 89th minute to make it 1-1 when he picked up a loose ball in a scramble in front of the net and hammered it home from six meters.

Both teams opened the match before 75,000 at Camp Nou stadium with clear scoring chances in the first two minutes - Brazilian Romario for Barcelona and Stefan Pettersson for Goteborg.

The Spaniards carried the play in the first half and had the better scoring chances.

Barcelona's best scoring chance in the second half - prior to Bakero's decisive goal - came 20 minutes into the period when Bulgarian Hristo Stoichkov centered a ball through the area that Romario barely failed to reach and direct into an open goalmouth.

Manchester United 4, Galatasaray 0

Under-strength Manchester United cruised to a home victory but failed to make it to the quarter-finals.

The Reds wound up level on points with second-place Barcelona in Group A, but the final positions were decided on the results of the two games played between the two teams. The game at Old Trafford was a 2-2 tie, but Barcelona won 4-1 at Camp Nou.

United scored three times in the first 45 minutes to overpower Galatasaray before some 49,000 fans at Old Trafford before adding a fourth near the end.

The England champion was forced to face the Turks without seven regular stars.

Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel, wingers Ryan Giggs, Lee Sharpe and Ukrainian Andrei Kanchelskii and defender Paul Parker were injured

while striker Mark Hughes and midfielder Paul Ince were suspended. United raced into the lead in the third minute when a pass from Brian McClair found Simon Davies totally unmarked just inside the left angle of the penalty area. The 20-year-old winger wasted no time in driving a left-footed shot inside the far post.

After Roy Keane had lobbed a shot against the post, the Reds went further ahead in the 39th minute through another young newcomer, David Beckham.

The persistence of French striker Eric Cantona and experienced Scotsman Brian McClair opened up the Galatasaray defense and Beckham had space to fire past Lithuanian goalkeeper Gintaras Stauskas from 20 meters.

Paris St. Germain 4, Spartak Moscow 1

George Weah scored twice as Paris St. Germain completed a sweep of its matches in Group B.

Weah had a goal in each half to increase his total to six goals in the Champions League.

The French club did not lose in six outings against the other members of the group and easily qualified for the quarter-finals next March.

The game was a wide open affair from the start with the Russian team pressing the offense in an attempt to qualify but the home team took over control of the match.

European Champions League

Group A
In Manchester: Manchester United (England) 4, Galatasaray (Turkey) 0 (halftime 2-0). Scores: Simon Davies (3rd), David Beckham (38th), Roy Keane (49th), Kenneth Bunt (88th, own goal).
In Barcelona: Barcelona (Spain) 1, IFK Goteborg (Sweden) 1 (0-0). Scores: Barcelona - Jose Bakero (81st); Goteborg - Stefan Rehn (89th).

Group B
In Paris: Paris St. Germain (France) 4, Spartak Moscow (Russia) 1 (2-0). Scores: Paris St. Germain - George Weah (28th, 52nd), David Ginola (42nd), Rai (59th); Spartak - Sergei Rodionov (67th).
In Kiev: Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine) 1, Bayern Munich (Germany) 4. Scores: Dynamo Kiev - Andriy Shevchenko (68th); Bayern Munich - Christian Ziegl (30th), Jean-Pierre Papin (56th, 82nd), Michael Scholl (87th).

Group C
In Split: Hajduk Split (Croatia) 1, Steaua Bucharest 4 (0-3). Scores: Hajduk - Stipe Andrijevich (68th); Steaua - Adrian Iancu (11th, 32nd), Marin Lacombe (25th), Constantin Gilescu (90th).
In Brussels: Anderlecht (Belgium) 1, Benfica Lisbon (Portugal) 1 (0-0). Scores: Anderlecht - Graciano Ruyter (49th minute); Benfica - Silva Edilson (83rd).

Group D
In Amsterdam: Ajax Amsterdam (Netherlands) 2, Aek Athens (Greece) 0 (halftime 1-0). Scores: Turk Oruldu (7th, 78th).
In Vienna: Austria Salzburg (Austria) 0, AC Milan (Italy) 1 (0-1). Scores: Daniele Massaro (29th).

Larsson edges pal Edberg in thriller; faces Agassi in Grand Slam's last 8

MUNICH (Reuters) - Magnus Larsson dumped his Swedish Davis Cup-winning teammate Stefan Edberg out of the \$6 million Grand Slam Cup in a three-set thriller yesterday.

Larsson will go to the quarter-final against Andre Agassi, who beat Austrian Thomas Muster 6-3, 7-5.

Larsson's 6-4, 6-7(7/9), 8-6 first-round victory, just five days after Sweden beat Russia in the Davis Cup final, was a deserved reward for superior serving power.

On the super-fast carpet in Munich's Olympic Hall, Larsson rarely looked in trouble on his own service while the world number seven, for all the sweetness of his volleys, never managed to gain the ascendancy.

For Edberg, the defeat capped a year marked by a relative lack of

success in the major events.

He said the Davis Cup win had also taken its toll.

"There's nothing wrong with the tennis I'm playing. It's just that I've played 10 weeks in a row which is too much for me," he said.

But he paid tribute to his friend Larsson.

"He's a good player and he's got a big service which got him out of trouble a lot of times."

Larsson put that service to its best effect at 5-5 in the third set, when Edberg, who leveled the match by taking the second set in the tie-break, briefly looked as though he could snatch the victory.

Larsson produced two huge services, one of them an ace, to save two break points at 15-40. He fended off a third break point by

following in his service for a rare volley winner and produced another ace to take the game.

Edberg had to fight off a match point in the next game. And one service game later the pressure finally told on him as he overhit a simple drive at 30-40 to give Larsson the triumph.

Agassi swept aside fellow baseline specialist Muster, holding the upper hand after going a break down in the first set. It was a game of ferocious ground-stroke duels, and it assured Agassi of minimum winnings of \$500,000 from the world's richest tournament.

Agassi enjoyed one spectacular rally so much that he stood and watched the replay on the scoreboard television screen.

Muster still holds a 4-3 career edge over Agassi.

Record-breaking Chinese swimmer banned 2 years

LONDON (AP) - Chinese swimmer Lu Bin, who won four gold medals and set a world record at the Asian Games, has been suspended for two years for failing a drug test, the international swimming federation said yesterday.

FINA secretary Gunnar Werner said Lu tested positive for the banned substance dehydrocorticosterone in a random out-of-competition sampling September 30 before the start of October's Asian Games in Hiroshima.

It's the second positive test involving Lu. She was among seven Chinese swimmers who also tested positive for dehydrocorticosterone during the Games.

Dehydrocorticosterone is a form of the male hormone testosterone, which acts as a steroid in building muscle mass.

Lu was the second Chinese women swimmer to flunk a pre-Games test administered by FINA. Yang Aihua, the world 400-meter freestyle champion, tested positive for testosterone and was recently suspended by FINA for two years.

The suspensions, which will last through September 29, 1996, will keep the swimmers out of the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta.

Lu won four golds and two silvers at the Asian Games and set a world record in the 200-meter indi-

vidual medley. Last weekend, Lu and other Chinese athletes who tested positive during the Asian Games were stripped of their medals by the Olympic Council of Asia. Lu's world record will not be recognized by FINA.

At the World Championships in Rome in September, Lu won three golds and two silvers, but she and Yang will not be stripped of those medals because they tested negative in Rome.

Many Western swimmers and coaches have accused the Chinese of running a systematic doping program, but Chinese officials and FINA have blamed the positive cases on individual athletes.

Baseball's winter meetings have everything but the Big Show

DALLAS (AP) - Once the site of hot-stove action, baseball's winter meetings have been reduced to little more than a trade show and job fair.

Instead of player trades and big-dollar free agent signings, the annual meeting of the National Association of Professional Baseball Leagues is largely uneventful, a move owners forced when they voted not to attend after having spent \$250 million on free agents at the 1992 meetings.

The meatiest portion of this year's 93rd annual event came Monday with the major league draft of minor leaguers. The draft, held via a conference call, is a

chance for teams to pluck unprotected players from other teams' farm systems.

There wasn't much news to be found, only hundreds of baseball wannabes looking at exhibits and trying to find jobs.

In the "Employment Opportunity Work and Interview Room," six boards had job postings tacked on front and back.

Some of the fliers were call backs for extra rounds of interviews. Hopefuls crammed against each other to check out the lists, like kids trying to see if their name was on a coach's cut list.

The jobs were for all sorts of behind-the-scenes duties.

Want to be a minor-league trainer? The Houston Astros have an opening, but only for someone bilingual.

Ever thought of sales? Well, the upcoming Women's Professional Fastpitch League has plenty of openings, although it hasn't yet picked any cities in which to play.

There's also a chance to be part of "Minor League Baseball's Most Successful Printer," as Multi-Ad Services in Peoria, Illinois, billed itself on its posting.

And, if you can "make sure the [Memphis] Chicks get great media coverage," then go for a public relations job with the team.

The trade fair had everything

anyone would need to get a team started and running.

There were architects to design stadiums and different companies willing to provide everything from dirt to seats to scoreboards.

Several companies offered pen-noms and other giveaway items. Even the San Diego Chicken and Morgana The Kissing Bandit were available to schedule promotional dates.

And, of course, there were plenty of people hawking bats, balls and all sorts of uniforms.

But still, no news.

The Sports Pages are edited by Joe Hoffman

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Gov't plans to ease censorship on identity of GSS head

EVELYN GORDON

THE government is working on a bill which would ease the censorship imposed on the identity of the head of the General Security Service, the state told the High Court of Justice yesterday.

Meanwhile, the state yesterday issued a show-cause order giving the government 60 days to explain why the GSS should be allowed to operate in the absence of any legal basis for its existence.

The court was dealing with three petitions relating to the GSS. Two, by the Shoken newspaper chair and reporter Yossi Melman, dealt with the ban on publishing the name of the GSS chief (Melman's also attacked the ban on publishing the name of the Mossad head), while the third, by the Public Committee Against Torture in Israel, dealt with the GSS's methods of investigation and the lack of any law regulating it.

Nili Arad, head of the Justice Ministry's High Court division, opened by asking the court to postpone the two petitions on the head of the GSS for six months. The government is preparing a bill to regulate the entire matter of the GSS, and is considering easing the publication ban on the GSS chief's

name as part of this bill, she said. Two private member's bills have also been submitted on this subject, she said.

In response, attorneys Mibi Moser and Shimon Shuber, representing Shoken and Melman, respectively, said they were not interested in the question of whether the name of the GSS chief should be censored as a rule; they were interested in whether the name of this particular GSS head should be censored, given that his name has been published all over the world - in, among other places, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *AFP* wire service, an Arabic wire service, and the *Nexu* database.

Shuber also said there has been a tradition of lifting the censorship ban once the name has been published overseas.

Therefore, they said, there was no need to wait for the government legislation.

However, Justices Eliahu Mazza, Yitzhak Zamir and Tova Strasberg-Cohen disagreed.

"It is not so proper for this court to deal with a petition against the

background of planned legislation," said Mazza.

Furthermore, the justices said, the general principle was the only interesting part of the petition. The specific question, of whether the name should be published here because it has already been published overseas, "is one I am ready to answer almost easily - and the answer is no," Mazza said.

However, the justices decided to postpone the hearing only for three months because, in Mazza's words, "we're dealing with censorship, and censorship is a serious thing."

The third petition, by the Public Committee Against Torture, argued that since the GSS was set up by administrative decision rather than by legislation, it has no legal basis, and should therefore not be allowed to operate.

The petition also attacked the permission given the GSS to use "moderate physical and psychological pressure" in its investigations, and requested that the Landau report, which established these guidelines, be made public. Finally, it protested the conditions

under which prisoners are kept in GSS facilities.

Originally, the justices suggested deferring this petition as well, in light of Arad's announcement that the government is working on a bill to give the GSS a legal basis. However, attorney Avigdor Feldman objected.

"Without 'moderate pressure' by this court, this legislative initiative won't bear fruit," he said. Both Arad and Nitzan had stressed that they could not promise the legislation would ever come to pass - and certainly not that it would be finished within any given time period.

Feldman therefore asked the court to issue a show-cause order immediately, but defer the final hearing.

The court partially acceded to this request, and issued the order against the GSS's continued operation with no basis in law. However, it rejected the rest of the petition out of hand. The allegations regarding the conditions at GSS facilities, the justices said, had no factual basis, and the other two issues would probably be addressed in some fashion by the planned government legislation.



Members of the Islamic Movement protest yesterday at the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv against Russia's backing of the Serbs in Bosnia. (Akon Ron/Israel Sun)

Liba'i blasts attempt to gag High Court

Jerusalem Post Staff and Itim

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i reacted strongly to the attempt by MKs Shlomo Benizri (Shas) and Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) to limit the powers of the High Court of Justice.

According to press reports yesterday, Benizri is trying to organize a Knesset caucus that would work to limit the High Court's powers, after a series of rulings by the court that Shas believes has violated the status quo on religious matters.

The caucus would also work to prevent the appointment of Justice Aharon Barak as president of the court, the reports said.

The NRP had suggested taking action against the court, and Barak in particular, earlier in the week.

"Under no circumstances will the High Court be harmed," said Liba'i. "Laying a hand on the High Court means the end of democracy in Israel."

Liba'i said the people, especially minorities, need an independent judiciary system.

He rejected the idea of limiting the term of a Supreme Court justice to five years, saying this would destroy the justices' independence.

Liba'i said he had not succeeded in convincing Court President Meir Shamgar to extend his term for another five years, and that Barak, the court's deputy president, would be given the post.

Liba'i attacked Benizri and Bibi for attempting to prevent Barak from assuming the post. He stressed that his ministry's justice selection committee had the sole authority to appoint justices, not the government or the Knesset.

Liba'i said Barak had the understanding to deal with conflicts that may arise among the various sectors.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein criticized attempts to limit Barak's term or to limit the court in any way.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the 10 of spades, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

Yi'ud bill passes second reading

DAN IZENBERG

THE Knesset yesterday approved in second reading a bill enabling Yi'ud to join the government, but postponed the final vote until next week because Tsomet and the National Religious Party demanded that it be turned into a vote of no-confidence.

The plenum debated hundreds of proposed changes to the bill until early in the morning, as opposition MKs turned the discussion into an attack on the government and the two Yi'ud MKs who plan to join it.

Gonen Segev is slated to become energy minister and Alex Goldfarb deputy housing minister.

The third Yi'ud MK, Esther Salmovitz, voted with the opposition; Labor's Yoram Lass abstained.

The coalition decided to introduce the legislation after the High Court of Justice ruled that members of a Knesset faction established after the elections by splitting away from their original list could not serve in the cabinet.

A law passed in the previous Knesset distinguished between individual defectors - who lose most of their Knesset privileges - and groups of MKs constituting

at least one-third of the original list, who can establish a new faction with all its privileges. Yi'ud is a legally constituted faction.

The law, however, did not clearly stipulate that the members of legally constituted factions could join the cabinet.

The opposition argued that the new legislation should go into effect in the next Knesset. Opposition spokesmen said Segev and Goldfarb had betrayed the platform upon which they had been elected and are selling themselves for personal benefits.

Law Committee chairman Dedi Zucker said most opposition MKs agree that the bill was correct in principle and that it reflects the true intentions of the original law. He said the opposition opposes the bill only for political reasons.

The Tsomet faction issued a statement saying that the vote "proved again that revolution over the behavior of the two Yi'ud people ... did not influence the outcome of the vote when the prime minister was watching."

Gur: Iran may be making long-range missiles

Jerusalem Post Staff

IRAN may be co-producing long-range missiles with North Korea that can reach Israel, Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur said yesterday.

"We know the Iranians are in contact with North Korea to purchase and produce together a missile that can reach the range of 1,300 km, maybe a little farther," he told Army Radio.

"We assume the enemy they see in their minds is the State of Israel. Maybe not only Israel, but the fact is with that range they can reach us and in the last year we have taken many steps in this context."

Gur said while Israel was making peace with its immediate neighbors, it still had to worry about its distant enemies.

"We still can't be free of the risk from the further states, the second circle - Iran, Iraq, Libya, Algeria," Gur said.

Israeli Arabs slam Russia's support of Serbs in Bosnia

DAVID RUDGE

DOZENS of members of the Israeli Arab Islamic Movement demonstrated outside the Russian Embassy in Tel Aviv yesterday, to protest what they described as Russia's support for the Serbs against Muslims in Bosnia.

The demonstrators called on Russia to change its policy, and not to use its UN veto, which has been preventing the supply of arms to the Muslims.

Ibrahim Sarsur, head of the Kafr Kassem local council, said a delegation met with Russian officials at the embassy.

"We submitted a declaration on behalf of the Islamic Movement and all Muslims in Israel, protesting against Russia's stance," he said.

"We hope and expect that Russia, which fought Hitler's Nazis, will not betray the blood of its soldiers by supporting the Nazism of the Serbs, who are perpetrating massacres today."

The protesters, led by Sheikh

Abdallah Nimr Darwish, spiritual head of the Islamic Movement, also accused the international community of ignoring the massacres.

"The UN, with America at its head, was ready to blast Iraq because the Iraqis moved their soldiers inside their territory," Sarsur said. "In the meantime, in Bosnia, UN soldiers have been held captive by the Serbs for more than two weeks, and still the UN is doing nothing."

He noted that the Islamic Movement has also protested to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali over the ineffectual attempts by the UN to negotiate a peace agreement.

"The Bosnian government has agreed to all of the proposed peace treaties, while the Serbs have consistently rejected them. The time has come for the UN to take military action to enforce peace and put an end to the massacres and the bloodshed," Sarsur said.

'Cairo agreement makes legislation banning import of non-kosher meat useless'

DAN IZENBERG

NRP MK Shaul Yahalom charged yesterday that legislation aimed at banning the import of non-kosher meat would be useless because the Cairo Agreement allows Palestinians to export non-kosher chicken to Israel.

Yahalom accused Trade and Industry Minister Micha Harish of misleading the Knesset, after Harish, in reply to a query by Shas MK Raphael Pinhasi, said the Cairo Agreement would not have any effect on the situation in Israel.

Harish said the autonomy was bound by all Israeli import laws. However, it allows the Palestinians the right to import 15 tons of non-kosher meat per year for the needs of the Palestinian population.

Harish said the ceiling was placed on Palestinian meat imports to the autonomy in order to prevent black market sales to Israel.

Yahalom accused Harish of concealing a different provision of the Cairo Agreement. Yahalom said the provision allows the Palestinians to export 5,000 tons of chicken for the next few years, and that after 1998, the volume of trade will be unlimited.

Yahalom said he has submitted a bill banning the import of meat from the autonomy to Israel.

The Knesset has approved a bill in preliminary reading preventing Israeli meat importers from bringing in any non-kosher meat products.

Car thieves arrested

RAINE MARCUS

A GANG responsible for stealing cars in the central district was arrested yesterday.

At around 1 a.m. yesterday police received a phone call reporting the theft of sheep from Moshav Hadid near Ben Shimon. When police arrived, they noticed two new cars parked at the roadside. The drivers were replacing tires and police stopped to offer help.

To their surprise, three men started to run away, and a fourth got into one of the cars and started to drive away with the passenger door still open. A policeman jumped into the vehicle. Other policemen followed and shot at the tires, puncturing one. But the driver continued on, while struggling with the policeman sitting next to him.

The policeman managed to pull the hand brake and, grabbing the steering wheel, drove into the safety barrier. The car overturned and the driver escaped.

Opposition refuses to postpone next week's no-confidence vote

DAN IZENBERG

THE opposition yesterday rejected the government's request to postpone next week's scheduled no-confidence votes on the economic problems in the Druse sector, even though Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will be out of the country.

"Rabin will be paired off with [United Torah Judaism MK] Avraham Shapira, who usually votes with the opposition," said a senior Tsomet official. "He can take it or leave it."

The opposition also announced that it would only agree to pairing off arrangements with Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Although it is not stipulated in the Knesset House Rules, it has become customary over the years not to hold no-confidence votes when the prime minister is abroad.

Rabin is to meet today with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and MK Salah Tarif (Labor) in a

last-ditch effort to end the 25-day old strike of Druse local council leaders. Six members of the blocking majority, including Tarif, have announced that they will vote with the opposition if the crisis is not resolved by Monday. The government will fall if they carry out their threat and Shas abstains as expected.

Since Rabin is leaving on Friday for Oslo to receive the Nobel Peace Prize, he has only a few hours to solve the crisis.

Tarif met with Shohat for almost an hour yesterday, but said the finance minister hardly budged. The Druse are demanding NIS 150 million more than the NIS 100m. allocated in the 1995 budget. Shohat has officially offered them an extra NIS 30m. Tarif said Shohat is now ready to give a bit more, but nothing close to what the Druse want.

"Rabin will have to decide," he concluded.

KNESSET BRIEFS

Likud rethinks health law implementation

The Likud is reconsidering its support for a government bill calling for the implementation of the National Health Insurance Law on January 1. Likud MK Naomi Blumenthal has warned that implementation of the law could cause "irreversible damage" to the health system if the fears voiced over the past few days that the government is not ready to cope with new arrangements included in the law prove true.

Bill defines couple as heterosexual

Hanan Porat has submitted a private member's bill legally defining the term "member of a couple" as "a man or woman who has married according to Israeli law."

The bill is aimed at undoing last week's High Court of Justice ruling that homosexual live-in partners are entitled to the same rights as heterosexual live-in partners.

Porat said he has received a flood of complaints from Jews in Israel and abroad about the High Court decision.

Bill on soldiers' detention

Police will be allowed to detain soldiers for a maximum of four days without authorization from the court or a senior army officer, according to a bill passed in preliminary reading yesterday. Under current law, soldiers can be arrested for up to 25 days without judicial review.

The bill, initiated by Dedi Zucker, stipulates that reserve or regular soldiers must be brought before a judge after four days. Regular soldiers can be held for four days and the judge advocate-general's office can extend the detention for four more days. After that, the case must be brought before a judge.

Some Arab villages to become official

MK Ran Cohen (Meretz) issued a statement saying the government is prepared to recognize four of the 40 unrecognized Arab villages that currently do not receive any government services. Cohen said the four villages included Ein Hod, El Arnan, Huald and Zmuda.

Dan Izenberg

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